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WOMEN AS WORKERS

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.....A Statistical Guide

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Martin P. Durkin,
Secretary

WOMEN'S BUREAU
Frieda S. Miller, Director
Washington 25, D. C.

D- 65

This report was prepared under the direction of Mary N. Hilton, Chief of the Research Division, by Jean S. Campbell, Chief of the Statistical Branch. The charts and tables were compiled by Regina M. Neitzey and other staff members of the Statistical Branch.

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I. NUMBER OF WOMEN WORKERS

Long-Term Trend

According to the 1950 Census of Population, the number of women in the total labor force in 1950 was about 4½ times as large as the number who were working in 1890. Many factors have contributed to the tremendous increase in the number of working women in this country, and one of the most basic has been the growth in the population.

During the past 60 years, the number of persons in the population of working age (14 years and over) has almost tripled. The increase in the number of women during these years has been slightly greater than the increase in the number of men. In 1890, women were a little less than half of the population 14 years and over; in 1950, when they numbered 57 million, women were a little more than half of this population.

Whereas the woman population almost tripled during these years, the woman labor force more than quadrupled. Population growth alone, therefore, does not account for the number of women workers today, by comparison with 1890. At the same time there has been an increasing proportion of women engaged in work outside of their homes, a proportion which has risen by more than 50 percent from 1890 to 1950. In 1890, less than 20 percent of the woman

population 14 years and over were in the labor force. At this rate, women workers would have numbered only about 10½ million in 1950, or about two-thirds of the number actually reported (table 1).

Underlying this trend toward the increasing participation of women in the market place have been significant changes in the economic life of the Nation, and in the social customs and modes of living of the people. Most of the productive activities of the country have been transferred from home to factory; but women's work is still required to perform them. Furthermore, this change requires increased money income in the family in order to obtain the goods and services which were formerly provided by unpaid labor in the home.

Additional factors which have contributed to and are reflected in the growth in the proportion of women who work outside of their homes have been the trend toward urbanization and the concomitant increase in apartment-house living, a declining birthrate (at least until recent years), and increasing education for women which has fitted them for a variety of new jobs.

This increasing tendency for women to work occurred along with a declining proportion of men who were working: Between 1890 and 1950, the number of men in the labor force more than doubled, but this was slightly less than the growth in the male population of working age during these years. In other words, the proportion of men who were working in 1950 (79 percent) was somewhat less than the proportion who were working in 1890 (84 percent). As a consequence, in 1890, almost 2 out of every 10 workers were women; in 1950, about 3 out of every 10 workers were women (table 1).

Changes Since 1940

The changes which have occurred in the woman labor force since 1940 represent a continuation of the long-term trend toward an increasing proportion of women in the Nation's civilian work force. This trend was, of course, accelerated by the stimulus of World War II. During the war years, women's work outside of the home was required to perform not only those jobs which were customarily carried on by women, but also those jobs which were vacated by men who were inducted into the armed services.

In March 1940, before World War II, there had been about 14 million working women in the United States. At that time, 28 percent of all women 14 years and over in the population were in the labor force; and they formed one-fourth of all workers. By April 1945, after more than 3 years of war, there were 19½ million women in the labor force. Thirty-seven percent of the women of working age were working; and more than a third of the civilian workers were women.

This dramatic increase in the woman labor force in a 5-year period was directly attributable, of course, to World War II. Following the war, men were discharged from the armed services to resume civilian jobs, and the Nation adjusted to a postwar economy. This was accompanied by an exodus of women from the labor force, families were reunited, and the birthrate increased sharply. A postwar low point in the participation of women in the Nation's work force was reached by 1947, when 16 million women, or 30 percent of the woman population of working age were in the labor force. Even in 1947, however, the proportion of the Nation's workers who were women was 2 points above the 1940 level (table 2).

Following the postwar low year of 1947, the rising cost of living and the ever-pressing family need for additional money income forced many women back into the labor force. In addition, of course, increased employment opportunities as a result of wartime labor-force experience were undoubtedly an encouragement to many women to seek employment outside of the home. Average annual employment of women during the year 1950 was 18.7 million, or one-third of the woman population. These women formed 30 percent of all civilian workers.

Since, in the main, all men of working age who are able to work are already in the labor force, any crisis in our national life which requires the expansion of the civilian labor force or the Armed Forces must result in additional numbers of women finding employment outside of their homes. During 1951, as a result of such a crisis in Korea, the number of women in the labor force averaged 19.3 million, by comparison with 18.7 million during the previous year. This growth in the number of women workers was responsible for maintaining the civilian labor force at approximately its pre-Korean level, in spite of the induction of large numbers of young men into the armed services (table 3).

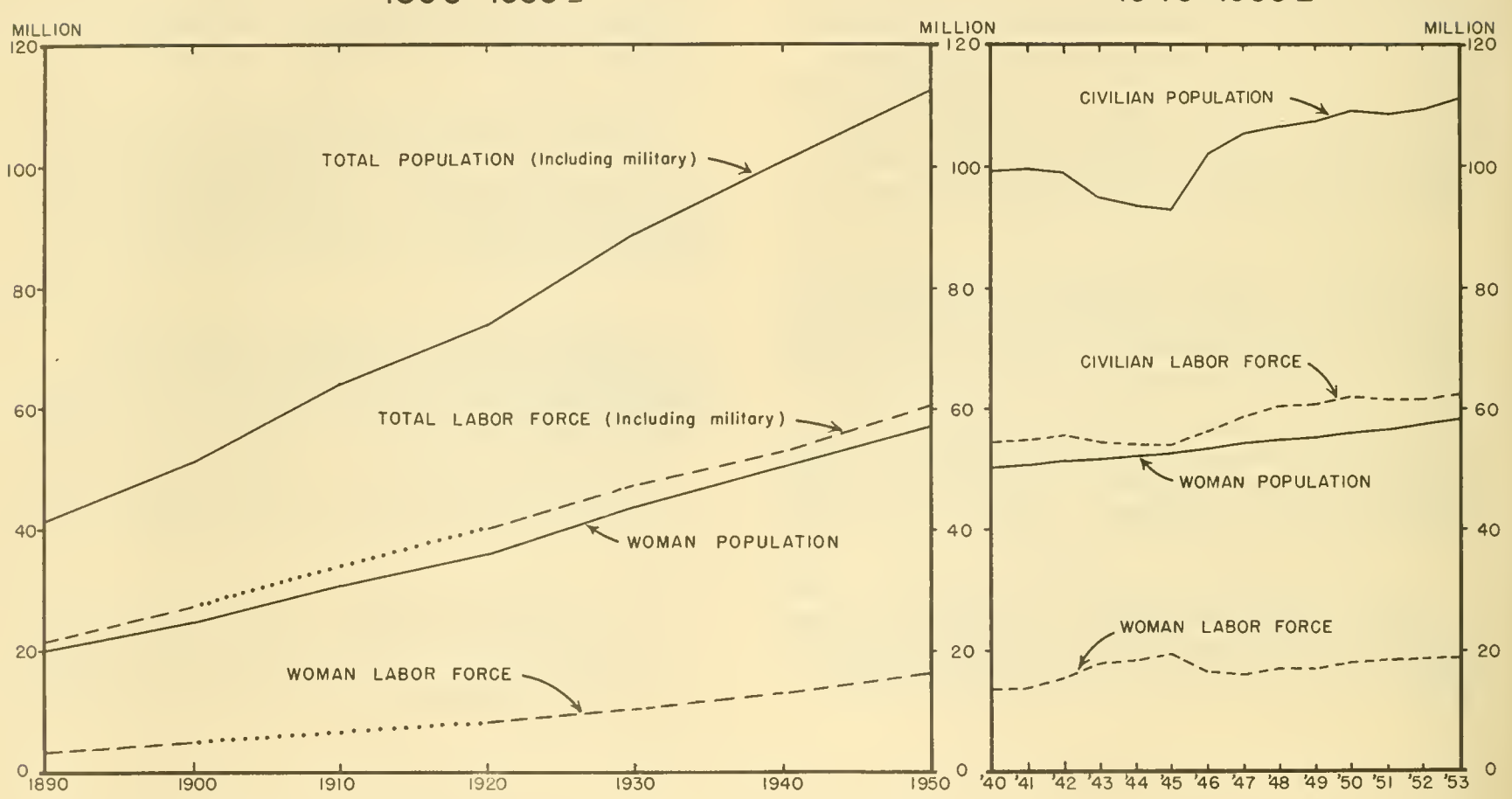
During the year 1952, there were - on the average - 19½ million women, or more than a third of the woman population, in the labor force. This number, though not the proportion of the woman population, exceeded the average for the wartime year of 1944 (table 3),

In recent months there appears to have been some levelling-off in the need to utilize women as replacements for male civilian workers. April 1953 figures show just under 19 million women in the labor force.

CHART I

POPULATION AND LABOR FORCE, 1890 - 1953

(14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER)



1/ Decennial census

2/ Estimates

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

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Table 1. Total Population and Total Labor Force, by Sex: 1890-1950 1/

(In thousands)

Year	Total			Women 2/			Men		
	Population 14 years and over	Labor force		Population 14 years and over	Labor force		Population 14 years and over	Labor force	
		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population
1950	112,731	60,428	53.6	57,103	16,512	28.9	55,628	43,916	78.9
1940	101,103	53,299	52.7	50,549	13,015	25.7	50,554	40,284	79.7
1930	89,101	47,404	53.2	44,013	10,396	23.6	45,088	37,008	82.1
1920	74,144	40,282	54.3	36,190	8,229	22.7	37,954	32,053	84.5
1910 3/	64,321	-	-	30,959	-	-	33,362	-	-
1900	51,438	27,640	53.7	25,024	4,999	20.0	26,414	22,641	85.7
1890	41,797	21,833	52.2	20,293	3,704	18.3	21,505	18,129	84.3

1/ Data refer to April, except 1890 (June), 1900 (June), and 1920 (January).

2/ Data for women in 1950 and 1940 as shown in this table are not comparable with data for these years as shown in Table 2.

3/ Comparable labor force data not available.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1950 Census of Population. Data include Armed Forces and employed civilians and their families overseas. 1890-1940: Data computed from John D. Durand, Labor Force in the United States, 1890-1960, New York, Social Science Research Council, 1948.

Table 2. Women in the Civilian Population and Labor Force: 1940-1953 1/

(In thousands)

Year	Population 14 years and over 2/	Labor force		
		Number	Percent of population	Percent of all workers
1953	58,368	18,912	32.4	30.1
1952	57,566	18,798	32.7	30.4
1951	56,899	18,607	32.7	30.1
1950	56,236	18,063	32.1	29.0
1949	55,592	17,167	30.9	28.2
1948	54,953	17,155	31.2	28.3
1947	54,400	16,320	30.0	27.6
1946	53,610	16,590	30.9	29.4
1945	52,860	19,570	37.0	36.1
1944	52,350	18,450	35.2	34.0
1943	51,910	18,100	34.9	33.0
1942	51,430	15,460	30.1	27.7
1941	50,800	13,930	27.4	25.3
1940	50,140	13,840	27.6	25.4

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

2/ Noninstitutional.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 3. Annual Average Number of Persons in the Civilian Labor Force: 1940-1952

(In thousands)

Year	Number of men and women	Number of men	Women		
			Number	Percent of woman population 1/	Percent of all workers
1952 - - - - -	62,963	43,450	19,513	33.8	31.1
1951 - - - - -	62,884	43,612	19,272	33.8	30.6
1950 - - - - -	63,099	44,442	18,657	33.1	29.6
1949 - - - - -	62,105	44,075	18,030	32.4	29.0
1948 - - - - -	61,442	43,858	17,583	31.9	28.6
1947 - - - - -	60,168	43,272	16,896	31.0	28.1
1946 - - - - -	57,520	40,740	16,780	31.2	29.2
1945 - - - - -	53,860	34,830	19,030	35.9	35.3
1944 - - - - -	54,630	35,460	19,170	36.5	35.1
1943 - - - - -	55,540	36,840	18,700	36.0	33.7
1942 - - - - -	56,410	40,300	16,110	31.3	28.6
1941 - - - - -	55,910	41,270	14,640	28.7	26.2
1940 - - - - -	55,640	41,480	14,160	28.2	25.4

1/ Noninstitutional.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

II. OCCUPATIONS

In April 1953, better than 1 out every 4 women who were working - more than 5 million women - were employed in clerical occupations. One out of every 5 women employed, or almost 4 million women, were operatives or factory workers. These two occupational groups accounted for almost half of all employed women in the spring of 1953. Service workers, professional or technical workers, and private household workers each accounted for about another 2 million women; the saleswoman group employed about 1½ million women. Other occupational groups each had less than a million women.

Since 1940 there have been a number of significant changes in the kinds of jobs that women hold and in the proportion of women workers who are in each type of occupation:

Clerical Workers

Certainly the most dramatic change since 1940 has been the increase in the number of women clerical workers - from 2½ million in 1940 to more than 5 million in 1953. Although the number of women clerical workers declined slightly following World War II, by 1951 - with the impact of the Korean crisis - the number had exceeded the previous wartime peak. Today the number of women clerical workers is about the same as it was at the height of World War II (table 4).

As the number of clerical workers has increased, the proportion of women who find employment in these jobs has also increased. In 1940, 1 out of every 5 employed women was a clerical worker; in 1953, 1 out of every 4 women was in this kind of job. Among employed men, on the other hand, less than 1 out of 15 is a clerical worker, and this proportion has varied only slightly since 1940 (table 6).

Of the 5 million men and women clerical workers in 1940, slightly more than half were women. In 1945, 7 out of 10 clerical workers were women. Following the war, of course, the proportion of women in these occupations declined from its wartime peak; but the effect of this wartime experience persisted in that the proportion of women in clerical jobs remained considerably above the prewar level. In 1953 almost two-thirds of the clerical workers were women (table 5).

Private Household Workers

Probably the most important change which has occurred in the occupational pattern of employed women since 1940 is that today only 10 percent of employed women are in private household work, whereas 18 percent were in this occupation before the war. That the proportion engaged in private household work declines as other job opportunities increase is evidenced by the fact that during the

war, when the demand for women in defense industries was greater than today, the proportion of women in private household work was even lower (table 6).

In 1940, out of a total of 12 million employed women, there were 2 million private household workers. In 1945, while World War II was still in process, there were only about 1½ million private household workers, out of a total of more than 19 million employed women (table 4). Although more women were working in these low-paying jobs following World War II, neither the number nor proportion of women so employed has risen to the prewar level. In 1940, the number of women household workers was the same as the number of women operatives. In 1953, there were more than twice as many women operatives as private household workers.

Today, almost all private household workers are women. Only about 3 percent of the persons engaged in this occupation are men, whereas in 1940, about 6 percent were men (table 5).

Professional and Technical Workers

In April 1953 there were approximately 2 million women employed as teachers, nurses, welfare workers, librarians, medical technicains, and in similar professional and technical jobs. These women numbered over 1/3 million more than were similarly engaged in 1940 (table 4).

Despite this increase in the number of women professional and technical workers there has been a decline in the proportion of women who find employment in these jobs today, by comparison with 1940; and during World War II the decline was even greater. In 1940, about 13 percent of all employed women were professional or technical workers. During the war, in 1945, this proportion dropped to 8 percent. Today, 1 out of every 10 employed women is a professional or technical worker (table 6). These changes may be accounted for, in part, by the fact that, during the war when jobs were plentiful, many more women entered employment directly without spending years in the necessary professional or technical training. Also, some women may have left low-paying professional jobs for more renumerative work in other occupations.

In 1940, the 1½ million women in professional and technical occupations were a little less than half of all such workers. Today the 2 million women in these jobs are only slightly more than a third of all such workers (table 5).

Operatives

In 1953, women operatives, most of whom are semiskilled factory workers, constituted the second largest group of employed women, following only women clerical workers. One-and-a-half million more women are employed in these jobs today than were so employed in 1940. The number today, however, is about 3/4 of a million less than were employed during World War II. The number of women who have found employment as operatives since 1940 has fluctuated in accordance with the expanded manpower needs of defense industries and the size

of our Armed Forces. When men returned from military service and defense production was curtailed following World War II, the number of women operatives dropped from 4½ million in 1945 to less than 3½ million by 1947. Again, between 1950 and 1951, as a result of the Korean crisis, the number of women operatives increased by ½ million - the sharpest year-to-year increase which has occurred since the end of World War II (table 4).

The changes in the proportion of employed women in factory jobs since 1940 have been less dramatic than the numerical changes. Since 1940 about a fifth of all employed women have held factory jobs, except, of course, during World War II, when almost a fourth of all employed women were working as operatives (table 6).

Likewise, the proportion of operatives who were women has shown little change since 1940, when about a fourth of all such workers were women; except, again, during the wartime year of 1945, when almost two-fifths of the factory production workers were women (table 5).

Farm Workers

Another occupational group in which the employment of women fluctuates sharply in accordance with national emergencies is thar of farm workers. (Most women engaged in farm work are employed as farm laborers and not as farmers or farm managers.) In March 1940, about 2/3 million women were employed in farm work, and they formed less than a tenth of all such workers. In April 1945, almost 2 million women were working on farms and they constituted more than a fifth of all such workers. Since the war, with the exception of 1949 when they numbered 1 million, the number of women farm workers has declined steadily, and is not almost at the 1940 level (tables 4 and 5).

In 1940, only about 5 percent of all employed women, but almost 25 percent of all employed men, were working on farms. During the war, the proportion of women engaged in farm work about doubled as women replaced men called to armed service and the proportion of men in farm work consequently declined. Following the war, the proportion of women engaged in farm work returned to its prewar level, while the proportion of men so employed has staedily declined and today is only half of what it was in 1940.

Service Workers Except Private Household

Service workers include such persons as waitresses, cooks, hospital attendants, beauticians, elevator operators, practical nurses, and so forth. The number of women employed in these jobs has almost doubled since 1940; and today there are more than 2 million women engaged in the service occupations (table 4).

In 1940, two-fifths of the persons employed in the service occupations were women. During the war almost half of these employees were women.

The proportion of women declined immediately following World War II; but since 1949 it has been increasing again and today it is close to the wartime peak (table 5).

Little change has occurred in the percent of employed women or men who find jobs in these service occupations. About 7 percent of employed men and 13 percent of employed women work in service jobs today; and these proportions are approximately the same as in 1940 (table 6).

Sales Workers

As with service workers, the number of women salespersons has almost doubled since 1940. Today there are almost 1½ million women employed in these jobs (table 4).

Little change has occurred in the proportion of employed women or men engaged in sales work - about 8 percent of the women and 5 percent of the men are working in these jobs today - almost the same proportion as were employed in 1940 (table 6).

During the war women formed more than half of all salespersons, by comparison with their 1940 proportion of slightly more than a quarter of all such workers. Today women are about two-fifths of all sales workers, a proportion they have maintained throughout the postwar period.

Craftsmen

Relatively few women are employed as craftsmen or foremen. They numbered about 250 thousand in April 1953, and only 300 thousand at the height of World War II (table 4). These jobs occupy about 20 percent of all employed men but only about 2 percent of employed women (table 6).

During World War II women constituted almost 5 percent of all craftsmen and foremen, when the shortage of trained men forced the opening of some of these jobs to women. Following the war, however, women resumed their traditional proportion of 2 or 3 percent of all such workers.

Managers, Officials, and Proprietors

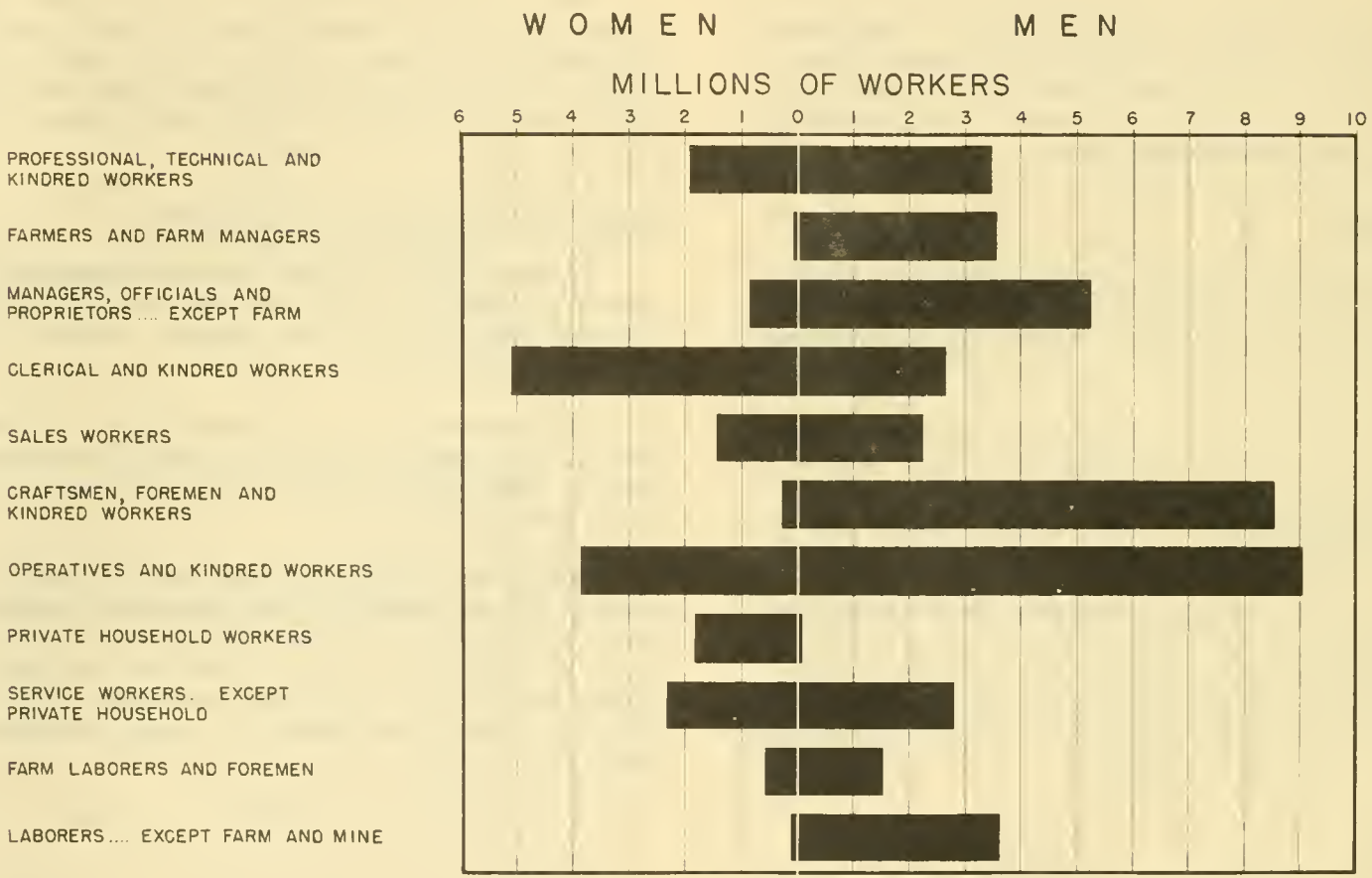
Almost a million women were employed as managers, officials, or proprietors in April 1953. This was almost double the number of women in such jobs in 1940 (table 4).

The proportion of employed women in these jobs is about half that of men, and the proportion has increased only slightly for both women and men since 1940 (table 6).

During World War II women formed about 17 percent of all managers, officials, and proprietors, an increase of 5 percentage points over their proportion in 1940. Today they are only 2 points below their 1945 level, although there have been some fluctuations in the intervening years (table 5).

CHART II

NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS IN MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS
APRIL, 1953



SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 4. Major Occupation Group of Employed Women: 1940, 1945, and 1947-1953 1/

(In thousands)

Major occupation group	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1945	1940
Number of employed women	18,434	18,234	17,890	17,176	16,356	16,529	15,800	19,310	11,920
Professional, technical and kindred workers	1,928	2,026	1,784	1,862	1,477	1,584	1,540	1,510	1,570
Farmers and farm workers	730	780	813	916	1,057	974	910	1,930	690
Farmers and farm managers	150	166	205	253	236	274	260	-	-
Farm laborers and foremen	580	614	608	663	821	700	650	-	-
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm	888	978	1,039	941	867	915	780	800	450
Clerical and kindred workers	5,090	5,284	4,931	4,539	4,542	4,497	4,130	4,900	2,530
Sales workers	1,434	1,416	1,264	1,516	1,386	1,401	1,320	1,440	830
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers	268	244	211	181	165	184	160	300	110
Operatives and kindred workers	3,862	3,496	3,737	3,215	3,199	3,429	3,420	4,610	2,190
Private household workers	1,854	1,748	1,872	1,771	1,666	1,671	1,690	1,670	2,100
Service workers, except private household	2,300	2,134	2,143	2,168	1,911	1,797	1,770	1,980	1,350
Laborers, except farm and mine	80	128	97	68	85	78	80	170	100

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports; and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, August 1947.

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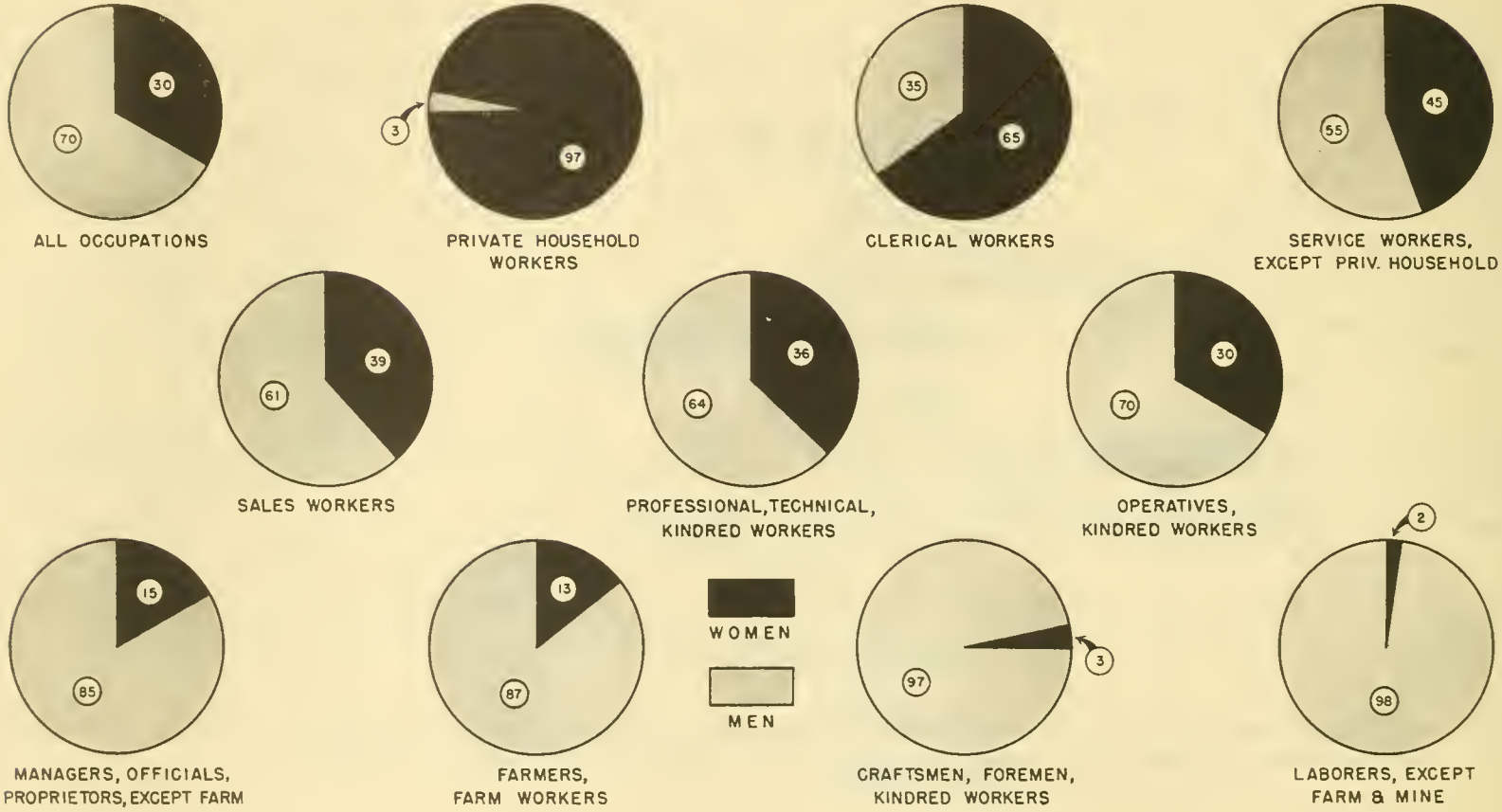
CHART III

PERCENT OF WOMEN & MEN IN EACH OCCUPATIONAL GROUP: 1953



SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 5. Percent Women Formed of All Employed Persons in Each Occupational Group: 1940, 1945, and 1947-1953 1/

Major occupation group	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1945	1940
Total	30.1	30.3	29.8	29.3	28.3	28.3	27.9	36.0	25.9
Professional, technical and kindred workers	35.9	39.1	37.4	41.8	36.6	38.7	39.9	46.5	45.4
Farmers and farm workers	12.5	12.6	12.5	13.0	13.9	13.5	11.8	22.4	8.0
Farmers and farm managers	4.0	4.1	4.9	5.5	4.9	5.9	5.1	-	-
Farm laborers and foremen	27.4	28.7	26.0	27.4	29.2	27.2	25.0	-	-
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm	14.5	16.3	16.6	14.8	13.8	14.3	13.5	17.4	11.7
Clerical and kindred workers	65.4	65.1	65.1	59.3	61.2	61.2	58.6	70.3	52.6
Sales workers	38.8	38.4	34.9	39.0	37.7	38.8	39.9	54.1	27.9
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.1	4.4	2.1
Operatives and kindred workers	30.0	28.7	29.7	26.9	27.5	28.0	28.1	38.3	25.7
Private household workers	97.3	97.9	97.4	92.1	91.6	92.5	92.3	93.8	93.8
Service workers, except private household	44.8	46.1	47.4	45.4	44.1	42.7	43.6	47.8	40.1
Laborers, except farm and mine	2.2	3.6	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.3	6.1	3.2

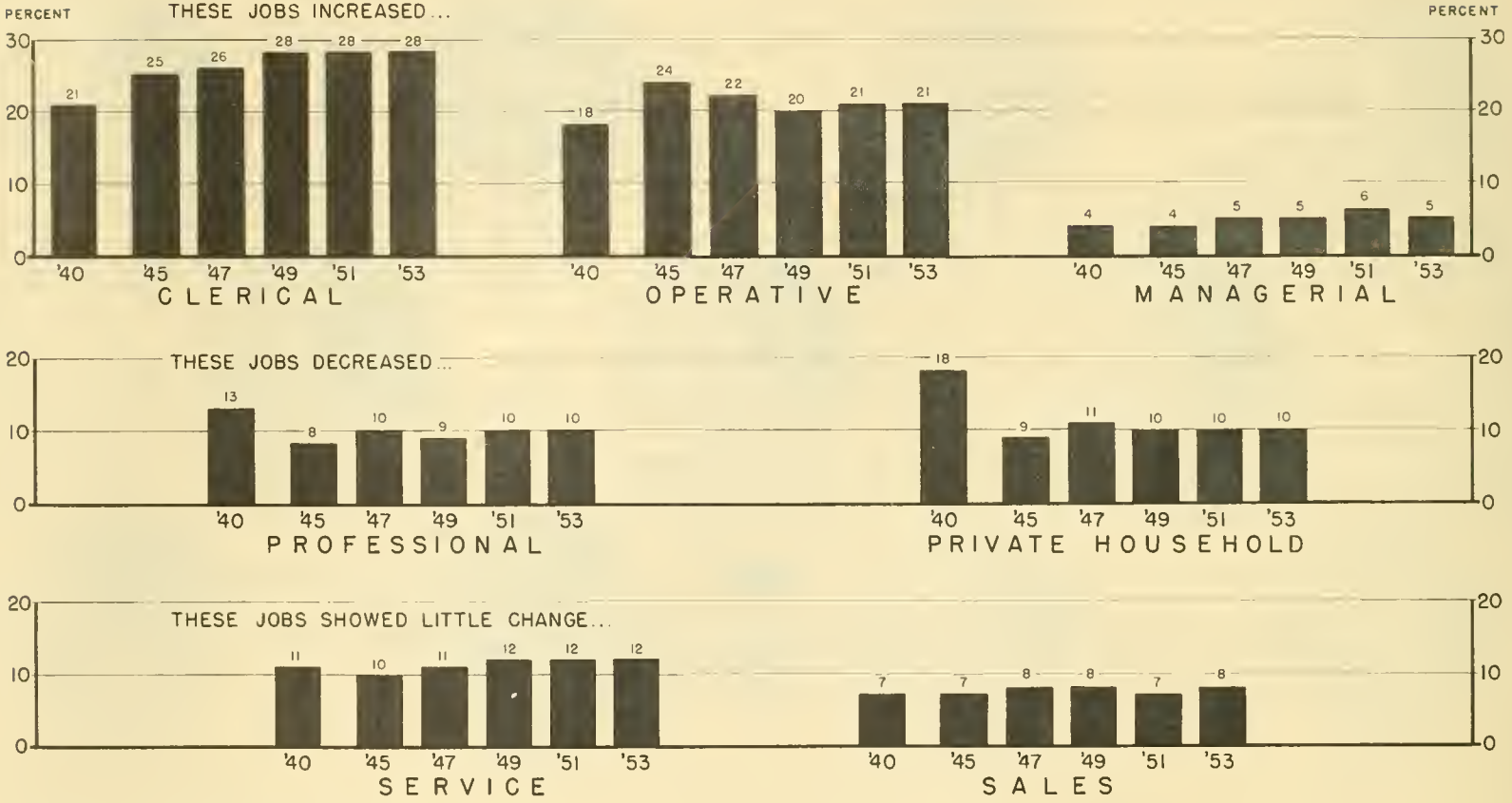
1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports; and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, August 1947.

CHART IV

OCCUPATIONAL PATTERNS: 1940, 1945 TO 1953

PERCENT OF WOMEN WORKERS ENGAGED IN SELECTED FIELDS



SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 6. Percent Distribution of Employed Men and Women, by Occupation: 1940, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1951, and 1953 1/

Major occupation group	1953		1951		1949		1947		1945		1940	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total - - - -	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical and kindred workers -	8.0	10.5	7.1	10.0	6.2	9.0	5.7	9.7	5.1	7.8	5.5	13.3
Farmers and farm workers	11.9	3.9	13.5	4.5	15.8	6.4	16.7	5.8	19.5	10.0	23.3	5.7
Farmers and farm managers - - - - -	8.3	.8	9.4	1.1	11.0	1.4	11.9	1.7	-	-	-	-
Farm laborers and foremen - - - - -	3.6	3.1	4.1	3.4	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.1	-	-	-	-
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm - - - - - - - -	12.2	4.8	12.3	5.8	13.0	5.3	12.2	4.9	11.0	4.1	9.9	3.8
Clerical and kindred workers - - - - - - -	6.3	27.6	6.3	27.6	7.0	27.8	7.1	26.1	6.0	25.4	6.7	21.2
Sales workers - - - - -	5.3	7.8	5.6	7.1	5.5	8.5	4.9	8.4	3.5	7.5	6.3	7.0
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers - - -	20.0	1.5	19.6	1.2	18.1	1.0	18.0	1.0	19.0	1.5	14.7	.9
Operatives and kindred workers - - - - - - -	21.1	21.0	21.0	20.9	20.3	19.6	21.4	21.7	21.7	23.9	18.5	18.4
Private household workers - - - - - - -	.1	10.1	.1	10.5	.4	10.2	.3	10.7	.3	8.6	.4	17.6
Service workers, except private household - -	6.6	12.5	5.6	12.0	5.8	11.7	5.6	11.2	6.3	10.3	5.9	11.3
Laborers, except farm and mine - - - - -	8.4	.4	8.9	.5	7.8	.5	8.1	.5	7.6	.9	8.8	.8

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports; and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, August 1947.

Class of Worker in Nonagricultural and Agricultural Employment

Since 1940, at least four-fifths of all employed women have been wage and salary workers, and the remainder have been self-employed or unpaid family workers. Figures differentiating self-employed women from unpaid women family workers have been available only since 1946; and these figures indicate that less than 10 percent of the women who are in the labor force are self-employed. In 1953, these women were only 6 percent of all employed women. Among all employed workers, both women and men, the combined group of the self-employed and the unpaid family workers has declined from a fourth of all workers in 1940 to less than a fifth in 1953. Women were 14 percent of all self-employed and unpaid family workers in 1940. In 1945, when women were apparently caring for the business enterprises of their soldier-husbands, this proportion rose to 28 percent. In 1953, women accounted for 20 percent of all self-employed persons and unpaid family workers combined (table 7).

About 95 percent of all employed women work in nonagricultural industries. Almost all of these women are wage and salary workers; only about 6 percent are self-employed. Among the wage and salary workers, more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ million women are employees of Federal, State, or local governments; almost another 2 million are in private household work; and the remaining 12 million are wage or salary workers in private employment (table 7).

Only about 5 percent of all employed women, or less than 1 million, work in agriculture. During the spring and summer and the fall harvesting seasons, this number almost doubles.

In off-season months roughly from 10 to 15 percent of the persons in agriculture are women. In the harvesting seasons, however, this proportion may be as high as one-fourth of all workers. Depending upon the season of the year, from more

than a half to almost three-fourths of women farm workers may be unpaid family workers who do farm work for at least 15 hours a week (table 7).

Major Industry Distribution

Four major industry groups - manufacturing, retail trade, professional and related services, and personal services - accounted for the employment of more than three-fourths of all women workers in both 1940 and 1952. Within this period of time, however, a significant change had occurred in the distribution of women within these four groups: Whereas in 1940, a quarter of all women were employed in personal services and only a fifth in manufacturing industries, by 1952 these proportions were more than reversed, with nearly a quarter in manufacturing and less than a sixth in personal services (table 8).

In manufacturing, the proportion women were of all workers had increased only slightly between 1940 and 1952. During this same period, however, the proportion women formed of retail trade workers increased 10 points - from less than a third to two-fifths of all such workers (table 8). Although the proportion of workers in personal services who were women declined during the 12-year period, women were still almost three-fourths of all employees in the industry.

Not more than 5 percent - less than a million women - were employed in each of the remaining major industry groups in 1952. However, the proportion women were of all workers in these industries increased within the decade; and in 1952, women were two-fifths of all employees in finance, insurance, and real estate, and about a quarter of all persons employed in entertainment and recreation and of all public administration employees (table 8).

Manufacturing Industries

Four industries accounted for the employment of more than half of the 4.6 million women in manufacturing industries in March 1953. These industries were the following: Apparel and other finished textile products, with almost a million women; textile-mill products, and electrical machinery, each with more than half a million women; and food products, with slightly more than one-third million women (table 9).

Since 1950, only relatively small changes have occurred in the industry distribution of women in manufacturing. However, the cumulative effects of these changes have been sufficient to produce a noticeable change in the "durable-nondurable" distribution of women: In 1950, more than two-thirds of the women were engaged in the production of soft goods - apparel, textiles,

food, leather goods, etc.; and the remainder were engaged in heavy industries, such as machinery, transportation equipment, fabricated metal products, ordnance, etc. By 1953, reflecting the stepped-up production for defense purposes, the proportion of women employed in durable goods had increased 9 points, to 42 percent; and the proportion in nondurable goods had declined 8 points, to 58 percent.

The most dramatic increase in the employment of women in heavy industries was in ordnance and accessories. From only 4 thousand women in 1950, the number of employed women increased to 51 thousand women in 1953, or from only 17 percent of all ordnance workers to 27 percent of all workers in this field (tables 9 and 10).

Women were three-fourths of all workers in apparel manufacturing, nearly three-fifths of all workers in tobacco manufactures, and a third or more of all workers in textile, electrical machinery, leather products, instruments, and miscellaneous manufactures, in March 1953 (table 10).

Data are not available from the same source to indicate how many of the women employed in manufacturing are production workers, and how many are clerical, administrative, and supervisory workers. According to the 1947 Census of Manufactures, however, 81 percent of all women and 84 percent of all men in manufacturing were production workers. For women, this proportion ranged from a high of 94 percent or more in tobacco, textile, and apparel manufacturing, to a low of 46 percent or less in primary metals, printing and publishing, and petroleum and coal products manufacturing, the latter with less than a quarter of the women employed as production workers.

During World War II, of course, it was as production workers, particularly in the durable-goods industries, that women were added to the labor force in such impressive numbers, to reach a wartime peak in November 1943 of 5 million women in all manufacturing industries, double the number who were so employed before the war. Women rose from only 8 percent of all durable-goods production workers in October 1940 to 24 percent of all such workers in 1943. In nondurable-goods industries women increased from 39 to 45 percent of all production workers during this period.

Federal Government Employment

In June 1952, there were slightly more than ½ million women working for the Federal Government in civilian jobs. These women constituted about a fourth of all Government workers (table 11).

In 1923, the first year for which data are

available by sex, there were only 80 thousand women in the Federal service and they formed only a sixth of all Government workers. Their numbers increased slowly in subsequent years and in June 1941, before Pearl Harbor, there were only 266 thousand women in Federal jobs, a fifth of all Federal workers (table 11).

Necessity temporarily opened the Federal service to women, and 2 years after the outbreak of war their numbers approached 1 million; this was more than a third of all Federal civilian workers, better than double the proportion they had formed 10 years earlier.

Immediately following the war, of course, the size of the Federal civilian service declined by 20 percent, but the number of women employed declined by 40 percent. In 1945, women were 38 percent of all Federal workers. In 1946, women were displaced by men, many of whom were now eligible for veterans' preference in the Federal service; and the proportion of women declined to 28 percent. Today, women are only a fourth of all Federal workers (table 11).

Employment Among Farm Women

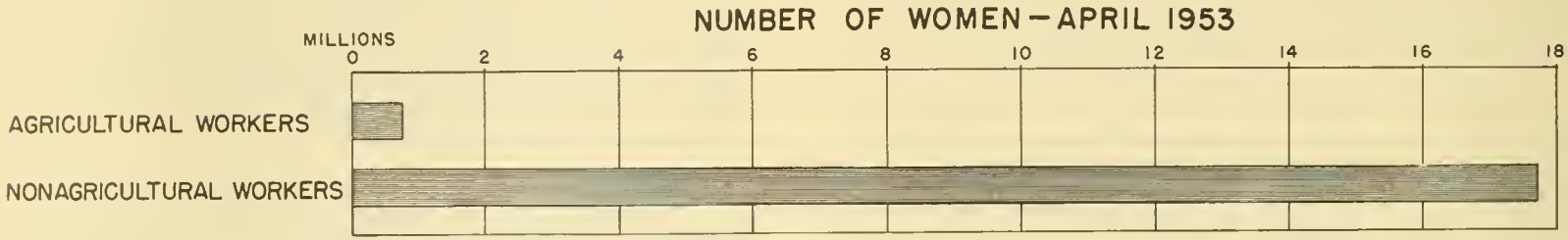
In April 1952, there were about 8 million women, 14 percent of the woman population, who were living on farms. Only about a fifth of these women - about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million - were employed. More than half of this group were in nonagricultural industries (table 12). However, April is not a month of high seasonal employment among farm workers; therefore, these figures fail to show that during the harvesting seasons many additional farm women will be engaged as unpaid family workers on family farms. (See ch. II, Occupations - Farm Workers.)

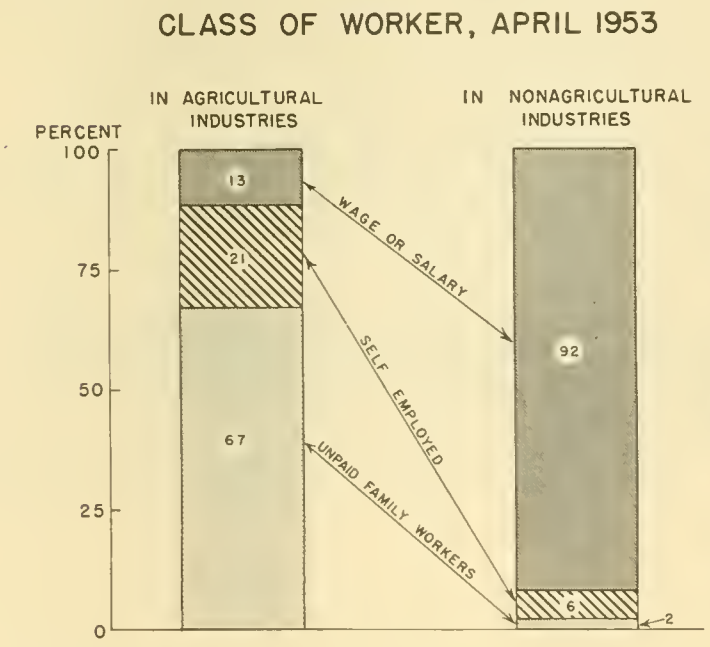
Limited employment opportunities for farm women is probably one of the factors involved in the shift in population from rural to urban areas. This population shift has been a significant development in this country in the last decade. According to the 1950 decennial census, the proportion of the woman population living in rural farm areas was reduced from a fifth an an eighth between 1940 and 1950. The proportion of women living in urban areas, on the other hand, increased from three-fifths to two-thirds during this period. The residential distribution of the woman labor force, of course, followed a similar pattern (table 13).

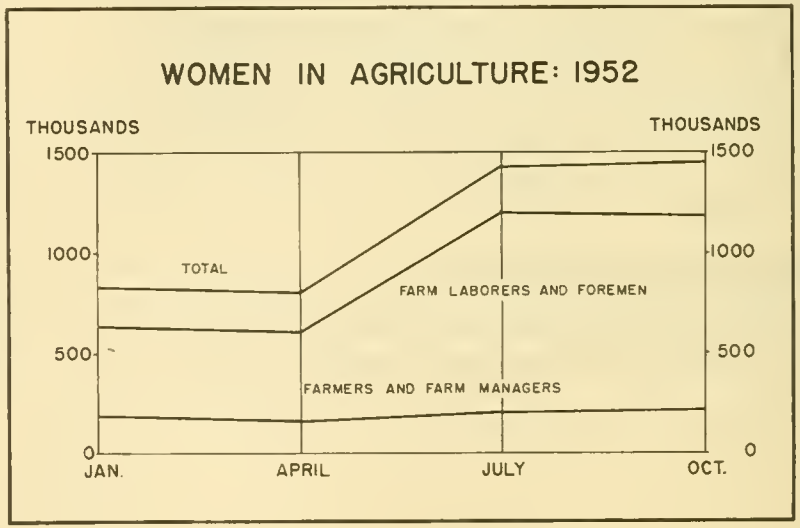
Although the labor force participation rate of women living in rural farm areas increased during the decade, **in 1950 it was only 16 percent, half the worker rate for women living in urban areas (table 13).**

CHART V

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL AND NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES: 1953







SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 7. Class of Worker of Employed Women: 1940, 1946, 1950, and 1953 1/

Class of Worker	Number of women (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of all workers			
	1953	1950	1946	1940	1953	1950	1946	1940	1953	1950	1946	1940
Total	18,434	17,176	16,130	11,920	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	30.1	29.3	29.8	25.9
Wage or salary workers	16,330	14,824	13,600	10,240	88.6	86.3	84.3	85.9	32.4	32.0	32.5	29.7
Self-employed and unpaid family workers 2/	2,104	2,352	2,530	1,680	11.4	13.7	15.7	14.1	19.5	19.1	20.7	14.4
Self-employed workers	1,178	1,410	1,320		6.4	8.2	8.2		12.7	13.3	13.1	
Unpaid family workers	926	942	1,210		5.0	5.5	7.5		61.7	56.2	55.8	
Employed in agriculture	774	923	1,360	700	4.2	5.4	8.4	5.9	12.8	12.8	16.6	8.0
Wage or salary workers	98	46	140	120	.5	.3	.9	1.0	7.5	3.4	9.2	5.6
Self-employed workers	160	253	360	190	.9	1.5	2.2	1.6	4.3	5.5	7.3	3.6
Unpaid family workers	516	625	860	390	2.8	3.6	5.3	3.3	50.2	48.7	49.7	28.7
Employed in nonagricultural industries	17,660	16,253	14,770	11,220	95.8	94.6	91.6	94.1	32.0	31.6	32.1	30.0
Wage or salary workers 2/	16,232	14,778	13,460	10,120	88.1	86.0	83.4	84.9	33.0	32.8	33.3	31.3
Private household workers	1,862	1,756	1,400		10,1	10.2	8.7		89.9	88.7	88,1	
Government workers	2,294	2,233	2,040		12.4	13.0	12.6		35.8	36.3	36.6	
Other wage or salary workers	12,076	10,790	10,020		65.5	62.8	62.1		29.7	29.2	30.2	
Self-employed and unpaid family workers 2/	1,428	1,474	1,310	1,100	7.7	8.6	8.1	9.2	23.7	22.9	23.5	21.8
Self-employed workers	1,018	1,157	960		5.5	6.7	6.0		18.3	19.1	18.7	
Unpaid family workers	410	317	350		2.2	1.8	2.2		86.9	81.1	79.5	

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

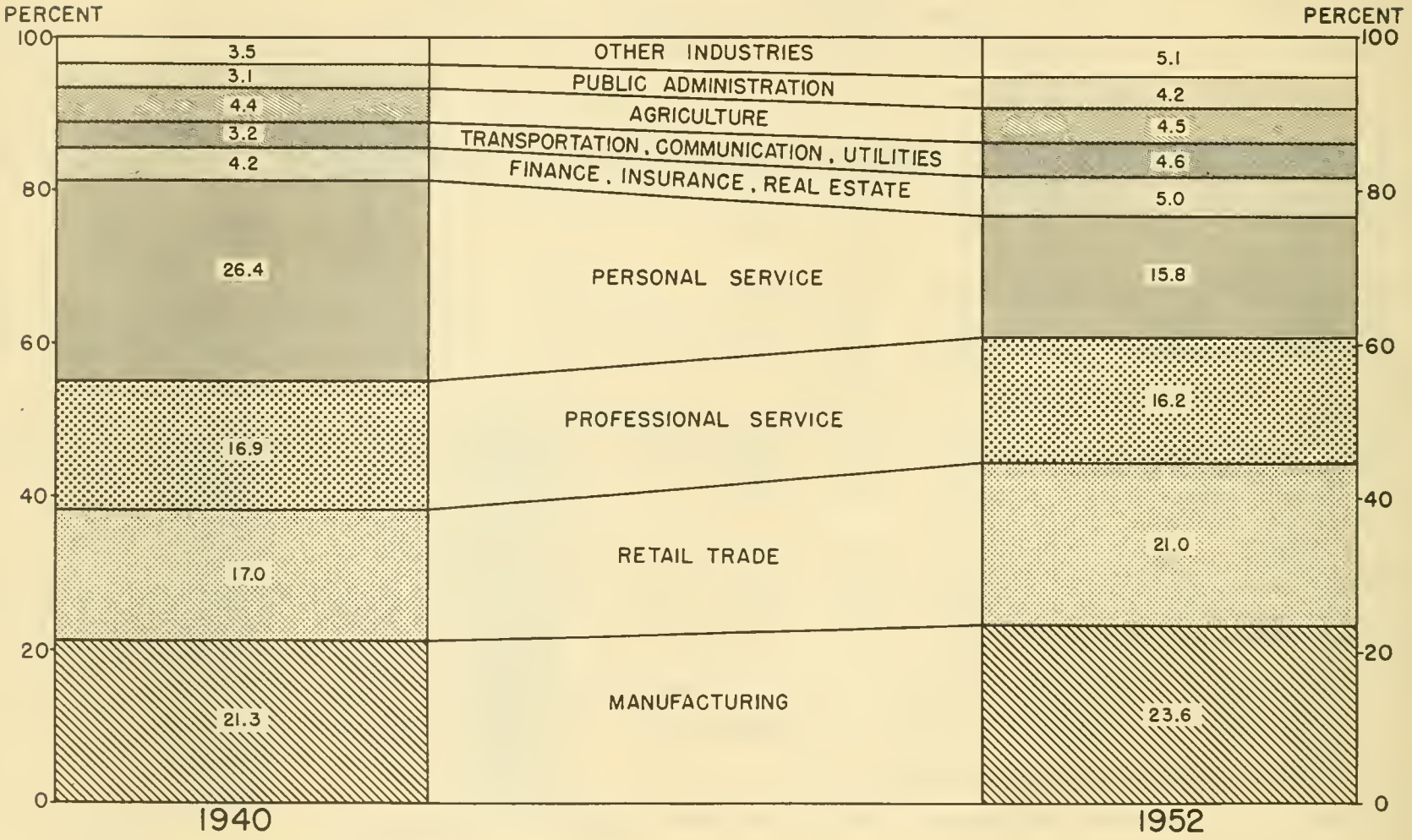
2/ Detail not available for these groups in 1940.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

CHART VI

EMPLOYED WOMEN BY INDUSTRY: 1940 and 1952

(PERCENT DISTRIBUTION)



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 8. Major Industry Group of Employed Women: 1940, 1950 and 1952 1/

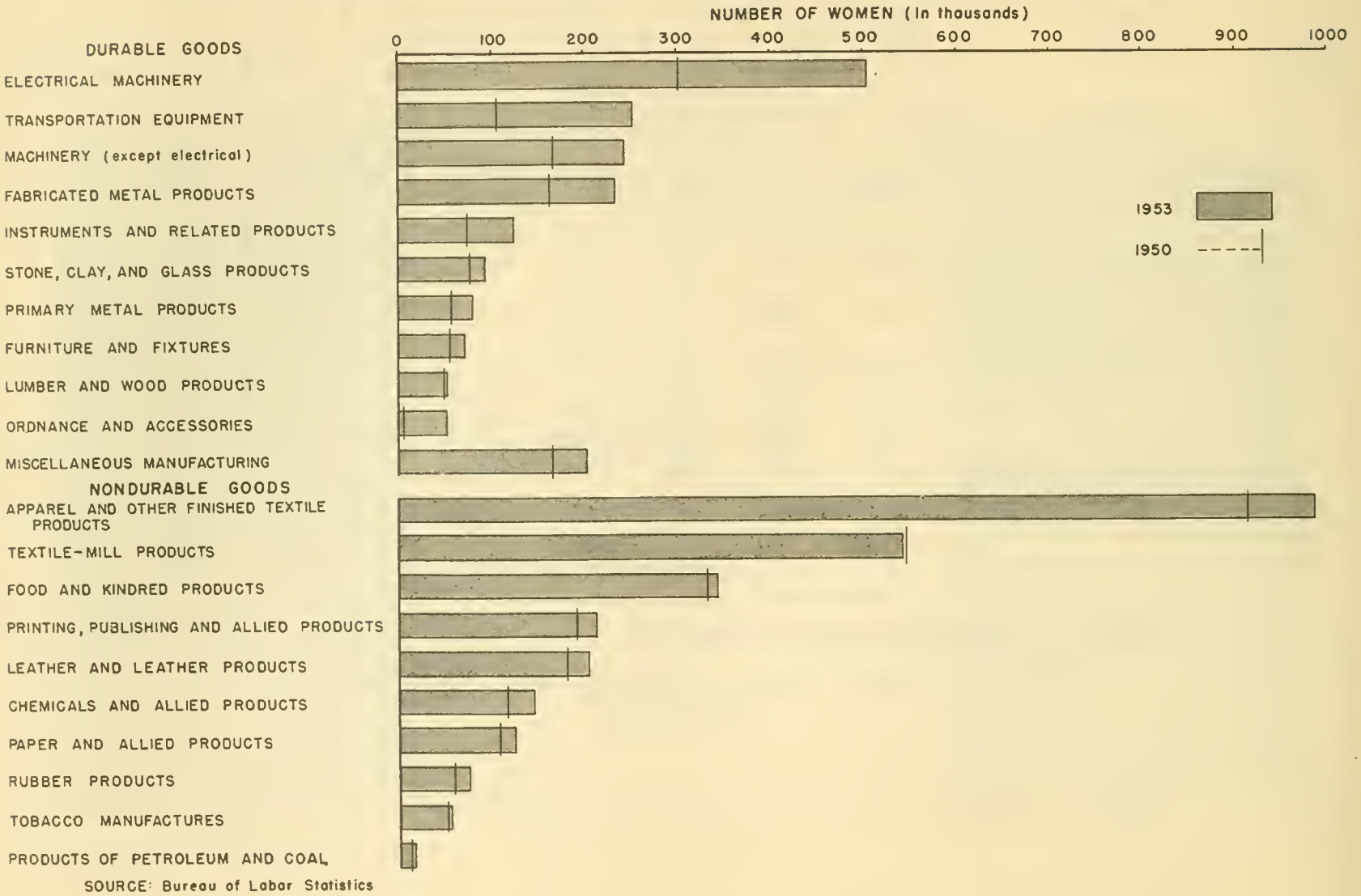
Major industry group	Number (in thousands)			Percent distribution			Percent of all workers		
	1952	1950	1940	1952	1950	1940	1952	1950	1940
All groups	18,234	16,674	11,920	100.0	100.0	100.0	30.3	29.0	25.9
Manufacturing	4,310	3,765	2,540	23.6	22.6	21.3	26.5	25.4	23.2
Retail trade	3,826	3,403	2,021	21.0	20.4	17.0	40.9	36.2	30.7
Professional and related services	2,956	2,735	2,018	16.2	16.4	16.9	60.1	55.2	57.4
Personal services	2,888	3,000	3,145	15.8	18.0	26.4	71.6	70.7	73.2
Finance, insurance and real estate	912	856	497	5.0	5.1	4.2	42.9	42.7	32.5
Transportation, communication and other public utilities	830	663	377	4.6	4.0	3.2	17.6	14.9	11.8
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	814	692	533	4.5	4.2	4.5	12.6	10.2	6.2
Public administration	774	743	371	4.2	4.5	3.1	24.9	25.4	20.5
Wholesale trade	418	452	199	2.3	2.7	1.7	18.5	19.3	16.0
Business and repair services	218	159	84	1.2	1.0	.7	16.7	13.4	9.5
Entertainment and recreation services	146	125	87	.8	.7	.7	27.0	24.4	21.3
Construction	128	68	37	.7	.4	.3	3.1	2.2	1.8
Mining	14	15	12	.1	.1	.1	1.6	1.8	1.3

1/ Data refer to April 1952, March 1950, and March 1940.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

CHART VII

WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES: 1950 and 1953



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 9. Number of Women in Manufacturing Industries: 1950-1953 [1/]

(In thousands)

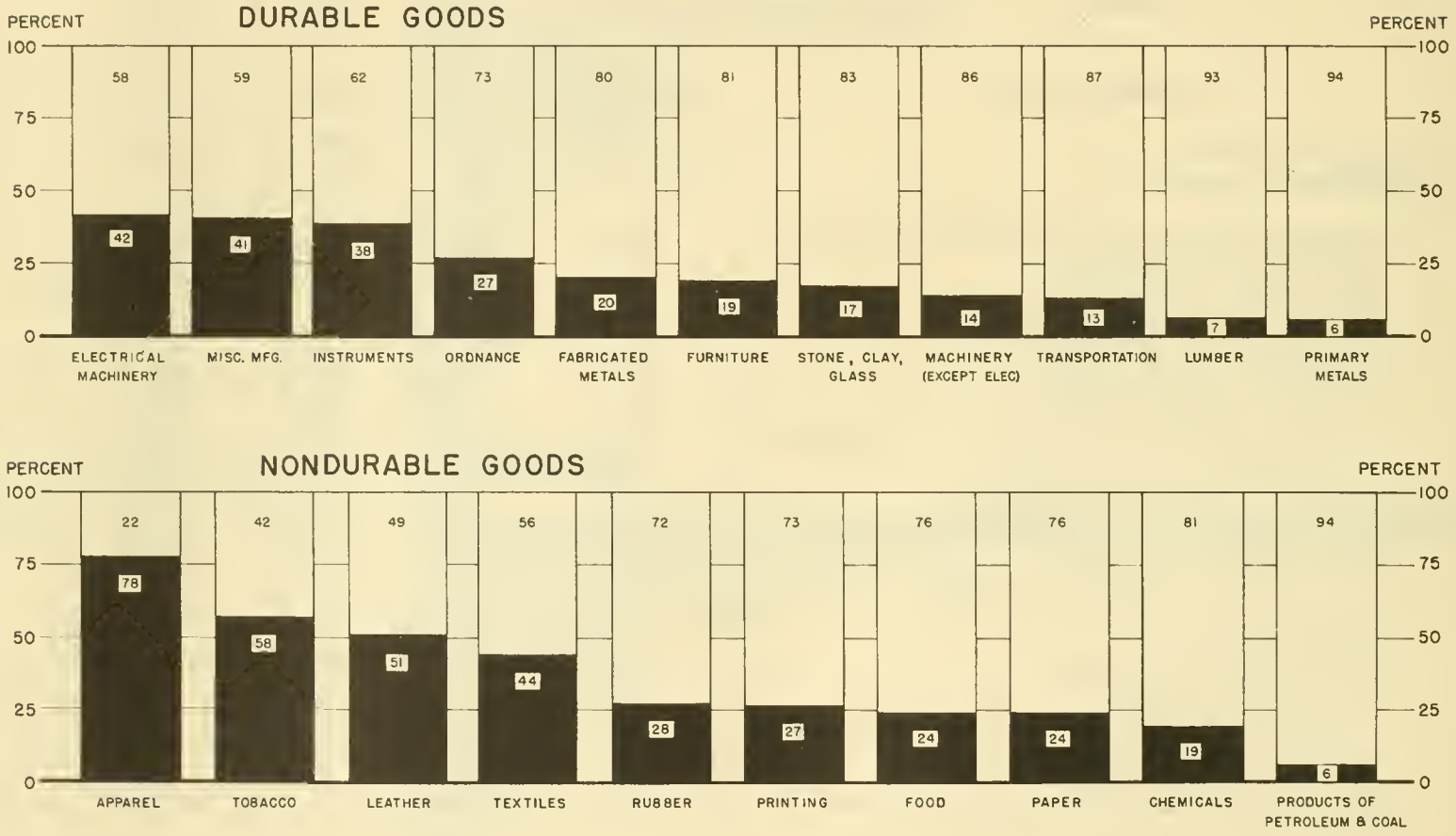
Industry	1953	1952	1951	1950
All manufacturing	4,622.5	4,238.0	4,280.0	3,752.7
Durable goods	1,919.7	1,665.0	1,598.4	1,238.3
Nondurable goods	2,702.8	2,573.0	2,681.6	2,514.4
Apparel and other finished textile products	980.8	928.8	964.7	912.0
Textile-mill products	542.9	516.7	568.6	546.5
Electrical machinery	504.5	416.3	401.7	303.6
Food and kindred products	344.4	337.9	350.8	332.2
Transportation equipment	255.4	203.9	163.8	107.2
Machinery (except electrical)	244.9	235.7	219.3	168.6
Fabricated metal products	235.1	199.0	209.0	166.1
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	212.1	203.4	206.9	193.8
Leather and leather products	204.2	188.9	192.1	181.7
Chemicals and allied products	146.4	143.7	134.4	115.1
Instruments and related products	125.0	110.8	101.9	76.8
Paper and allied products	124.0	112.6	122.6	108.2
Stone, clay, and glass products	94.1	87.9	96.3	78.0
Primary metal industries	82.3	77.6	71.7	59.6
Rubber products	76.6	71.1	73.7	60.3
Furniture and fixtures	73.2	64.3	66.2	56.2
Tobacco manufactures	56.1	55.2	55.3	53.8
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	52.8	50.9	55.3	50.4
Ordnance and accessories	51.2	44.0	10.4	4.4
Products of petroleum and coal	15.3	14.7	12.5	10.8
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	201.2	174.6	202.8	167.4

1/ Data are for March of each year.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CHART VIII

PROPORTION OF MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES — 1953



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 10. Percent Distribution of Employed Women and Percent Women Formed of All Workers in Manufacturing Industries: 1950-1953 1/

Industry	Percent distribution				Percent of all workers			
	1953	1952	1951	1950	1953	1952	1951	1950
All manufacturing	100	100	100	100	27	26	27	27
Durable goods	42	39	37	33	19	18	18	17
Nondurable goods	58	61	63	67	38	38	38	38
Apparel and other finished textile products	21	22	23	24	78	77	77	76
Textile-mill products	12	12	13	15	44	43	43	43
Electrical machinery	11	10	9	8	42	40	40	38
Food and kindred products	7	8	8	9	24	24	24	24
Transportation equipment	6	5	4	3	13	13	11	10
Machinery (except electrical)	5	6	5	4	14	14	14	13
Fabricated metal products	5	5	5	4	20	19	19	19
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	5	5	5	5	27	27	28	27
Leather and leather products	4	4	4	5	51	50	47	46
Chemicals and allied products	3	3	3	3	19	19	18	17
Instruments and related products	3	3	2	2	38	36	36	33
Paper and allied products	3	3	3	3	24	23	24	23
Stone, clay, and glass products	2	2	2	2	17	17	17	16
Primary metal industries	2	2	2	2	6	6	6	5
Rubber products	2	2	2	2	28	27	28	26
Furniture and fixtures	2	2	2	1	19	18	17	16
Tobacco manufactures	1	1	1	1	58	58	59	57
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	1	1	1	1	7	7	7	7
Ordnance and accessories	1	1	2/	2/	27	28	22	17
Products of petroleum and coal	2/	2/	2/	2/	6	6	5	5
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	4	4	5	4	41	39	41	40

1/ Data are for March of each year.
2/ Percent not shown where less than 1.
Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CHART IX

NUMBER OF WOMEN IN FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT
1923 — 1952

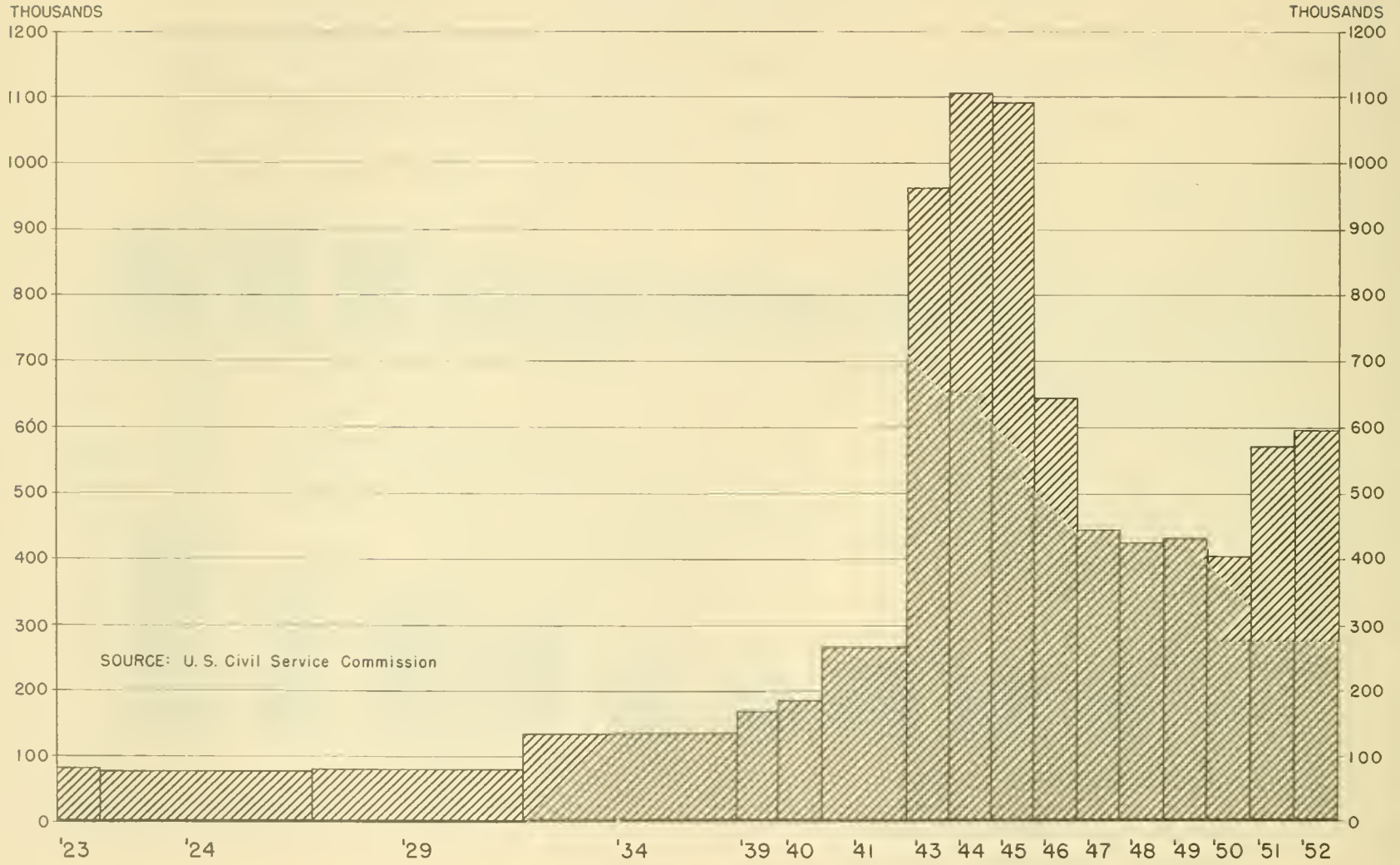


Table 11. Employment in Federal Civilian Service: 1923-1952 [1]

(In thousands)

Year	Number of men and women	Women	
		Number	Percent of all workers
1952	2,419	597	24.7
1951	2,313	573	24.8
1950	1,819	406	22.3
1949	1,929	434	22.5
1948	1,860	424	22.8
1947	1,850	441	23.8
1946	2,299	646	28.1
1945	2,915	2/1,093	37.5
1944	2,941	1,106	37.6
3/ 1943	2,793	961	34.4
1941	1,358	266	19.6
1940	1,003	186	18.6
1939	920	173	18.8
1934	673	103	15.3
1929	560	80	14.3
1924	5 522	78	14.9
1923	516	81	15.8

1/ Data refer to June, except 1944 (July).

2/ Partially estimated.

3/ Full-time regular employees only.

Source: U. S. Civil Service Commission. Data for Continental United States only.

Table 12. Employment Status of Women Living on Farms: 1950-1952 1/

Employment status	Number of women (in thousands)			Percent distribution			Percent of woman population 2/		
	1952	1951	1950	1952	1951	1950	1952	1951	1950
Women living on farms - -	8,075	7,965	8,391	100.0	100.0	100.0	14.0	14.0	14.9
In labor force - - - - - - - -	1,661	1,838	1,924	20.6	23.1	22.9	8.8	9.9	10.7
Employed - - - - - - - - -	1,637	1,792	1,851	20.3	22.5	22.1	9.0	10.0	10.8
Agriculture - - - - - - -	760	793	896	9.4	10.0	10.7	93.6	94.4	97.1
Nonagricultural industries - - - - - - -	877	999	955	10.9	12.5	11.4	5.0	5.9	5.9
Unemployed - - - - - - - -	24	46	73	.3	.6	.9	4.3	6.4	8.2
Not in the labor force - - - -	6,414	6,127	6,467	79.4	76.9	77.1	16.5	16.0	16.9

Employment of Women Living on Farms

	1952	1951	1950
Employed - - - -	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture - - - - -	46.4	44.3	48.4
Nonagricultural industries - - - -	53.6	55.7	51.6

1/ Data refer to April of each year.

2/ Civilian noninstitutional population, 14 years and over.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports; and Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 13. Urban-Rural Residence of Women in the Population and Labor Force: 1940 and 1950

Residence	Number of women (in thousands)		Percent distribution		Percent of total	
	1950	1940	1950	1940	1950	1940
	Population					
Total	57,042	50,549	100.0	100.0	50.8	50.0
Urban	38,622	30,772	67.7	60.9	52.0	51.6
Rural nonfarm	10,935	9,838	19.2	19.5	49.2	49.1
Rural farm	7,485	9,939	13.1	19.7	47.1	46.5
	Labor Force					
Total	16,501	12,845	100.0	100.0	27.5	24.3
Urban	12,838	9,606	77.8	74.8	31.2	29.5
Rural nonfarm	2,485	2,032	15.1	15.8	22.9	21.0
Rural farm	1,178	1,207	7.1	9.4	14.5	11.5

Labor Force Participation Rates

	1950	1940
Urban	33.2	31.2
Rural nonfarm	22.7	20.7
Rural farm	15.7	12.1

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1950 and 1940 Census of Population. (Population and labor force in Continental United States.)

Persons who are not working, either because they are not able or do not wish to work, are not considered part of the labor force and, therefore, are not among those classified as "unemployed." In April 1953, unemployed women, those actually seeking work, numbered almost ½ million; however, these women represented only 2½ percent of all women in the labor force. Furthermore, at that time women formed no greater proportion of the unemployed than of the employed.

Numbers

Since 1940, unemployment among women has dropped from about 2 million to less than ½ million, the low point being approximately ¼ million during the war years 1944 and 1945. Beginning with the postwar year 1946, the number of unemployed women fast began to approach the 1 million mark, until 1951 when the employment effects of the Korean crisis caused a reversal of this trend, bringing the number down again to the post-World War II level of ½ million.

In Contrast to Men

Traditionally, the unemployment rate for men is higher than for women; however, this pattern has been subject to deviations when men are being inducted into or released from the Armed Forces. As one might expect, the unemployment rates for both men and women were at their lowest during World War II, but slightly higher for women than for men because war-occasioned job opportunities brought large numbers of women into the labor force to seek work. The postwar period (1946 to 1950), however, showed the traditional picture, with unemployment rates for men, who were returning from the armed services and seeking civilian jobs, noticeably higher than for women, many of whom were leaving the labor force following the war. With the advent of the Korean crisis, the picture was again reversed, and the rate for women exceeded that for men. Like the World War II picture, this development unquestionably resulted from the influx of women into the labor market for the purpose of securing jobs expected to arise from defense expansion.

Women Among the Employed and Unemployed

The proportion which women form of all employed persons has risen steadily since 1940, from about 1/4 to almost 1/3 of the total; the only marked fluctuation in this trend has been the definite increase during World War II. Among the unemployed, however, no such steady or clear trend is evident. Rather, the proportion which women form of the unemployed has shown a number of fluctuations which are directly related to expansion and contraction of the labor market: The proportion rose sharply during World War II, fell sharply after the war and rose sharply again with the Korean engagement. This reflects clearly the tendency of a sizable segment of the woman population to enter the labor force during times of emergency, and withdraw when heavy demands for labor have subsided or not materialized. However, in view of the small but steady increase in women's proportion of the employed, it is also clear that some of these new entrants become permanent members of the labor force.

Table 14. Unemployment Among Women in the Labor Force: 1940-1953 1/

Year	Number of unemployed women (in thousands)	Unemployment rate		Percent women formed of-	
		Women	Men	Unemployed	Employed
1953 - - - - - -	478	2.5	2.5	30.2	30.1
1952 - - - - - -	564	3.0	2.4	35.0	30.3
1951 - - - - - -	716	3.8	2.4	41.1	29.8
1950 - - - - - -	887	4.9	6.0	25.2	29.3
1949-- - - - - -	811	4.7	5.0	26.9	28.2
1948 - - - - - -	626	3.6	3.6	28.5	28.3
1947 - - - - - -	520	3.2	4.4	21.5	27.6
1946 - - - - - -	460	2.8	4.7	19.7	29.4
1945 - - - - - -	260	1.3	.8	49.1	36.1
1944 - - - - - -	270	1.5	1.0	42.9	34.0
1943 - - - - - -	500	2.8	1.4	49.5	33.0
1942 - - - - - -	1,010	6.5	5.0	33.1	27.7
1941 - - - - - -	1,690	12.1	11.4	26.5	25.3
1940 - - - - - -	1,920	13.9	15.9	23.0	25.4

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

V. LABOR TURNOVER AND LENGTH OF TIME ON THE JOB

Labor Turnover in Selected Manufacturing Industries

The rate at which persons voluntarily quit their jobs is affected by the availability of other jobs. Following the Korean crisis, as employment in defense-connected industries expanded, the quit rate for women increased. For the month of April 1950, just prior to the Korean outbreak, women were quitting their jobs at a rate of 18 per 1,000 women employees. In April 1951, this rate had increased to 26, and in April 1952 it was 24.

Moreover, in 1950 the rate for involuntary separations among women - layoffs, discharges, etc. - was about the same as the rate for voluntary separations, or 17 women per 1,000 women employees. In April 1951, however, while the quit rate for women was 26 per 1,000 women, the involuntary separation rate was 20 per 1,000. In April 1952, the rates on voluntary and involuntary separations for women were 24 and 21 (per 1,000 employees), respectively (table 15).

Hiring of women workers in manufacturing plants was, of course, considerably stimulated by the Korean crisis. The rate of hiring changed from 35 women per 1,000 employees in April 1950 to 45 women per 1,000 employees in April 1951, or an increase of almost 30 percent. In April 1952, there was a decline in the hiring rate by comparison with 1951, but the rate was still 17 percent above what it had been in April 1950 (table 15).

Turnover Among Women and Men

Labor turnover rates for men and women separately are available for 20 manufacturing industries. These rates for April 1952 indicate that in those durable-goods industries for which rates are available voluntary separations among men and women occurred at the same rate, namely 23 per 1,000 employees. In two individual industries within the durable-goods group, quit rates were higher for women than for men: In electrical machinery and in instrument manufacturing (table 16).

In the nine other heavy industries for which rates were reported, quit rates were approximately the same for women as for men, with the following two exceptions: In furniture manufacturing, where women are about a fifth of all workers, the women's quit rate was substantially lower than men's. In lumber manufacturing (primarily a man-employing industry) the men's quit rates were substantially higher than the rates for women (table 16).

In nondurable-goods industries, on the other hand, the overall quit rates for the industries reported are considerably higher for women than for men - respectively, 26 and 18 per 1,000 employees. Women quit their jobs at a somewhat higher rate than men in the large women-employing industries of apparel, tobacco, and leather manufacturing. (About 50 percent or more of all of the employees in these industries are women.) Women also leave their jobs voluntarily at a higher rate than men in the rubber, paper, chemical, and petroleum-products manufacturing industries. With the exception of petroleum products, between a fourth and a fifth of all employees in these industries are women (table16).

The common generalization, then, that quit rates for women are consistently higher than for men is obviously in need of certain modifications. Differences in the rates between women and men in the durable and nondurable industries suggest that the relatively lower wage rates in the large woman-employing industries may be an important factor in explaining some of the turnover among women workers.

In industries in which women were about a fifth of all employees, involuntary separations from factory jobs - layoffs, discharges, etc., - were higher for women than for men in four durable-goods industries in April 1952 - electrical machinery, instruments, fabricated metal products, and miscellaneous manufacturing; and in three nondurable-goods industries, namely rubber, food, and paper manufacturing. Involuntary separation rates for men were higher than for women in ordnance and furniture manufacturing, among the durable-goods industries; and in apparel, textile, tobacco, chemical and leather manufacturing among the soft-goods industries.

Length of Time on the Job

A January 1951 survey by the U. S. Bureau of the Census revealed that men, on the average, had been employed about 4 years at the job which they were holding at the time of the survey, whereas women had been employed only a little more than half as long at their current job (table 17).

Part of this difference is accounted for by the fact that the woman labor force, on the whole, is slightly younger than the male labor force. However, it must also be noted that the greatest discrepancies between men and women in length of time on the job exist in the upper age groups. In fact, women 20 to 24 years of age are inclined to stay with the same employer to a somewhat greater extent than men. Among women in the older age groups, however, there were many who had left the labor market to assume full-time homemaking responsibilities, and who did not return to jobs outside of their homes until they had reached their middle years. Thus, women 55 to 64 years had been employed at the same job for only half as long as men in the same age groups (table 17).

Single women, primarily because they are younger women, had been with the same employer for an average of only 2 years. Married women without children under 18 years of age, on the other hand, had an average time of almost 3 years on the job, only a year less than that for men. Mothers of young children under 6 years of age, as might be expected, showed the lowest median years on the job - less than 1 year (table 17).

Among women, private household workers, service workers, and sales workers showed the lowest, and farm workers the highest, average time on the same job. Among men, farm laborers and other laborers were the least stable employees, with farmers, and managers and officials showing the most stability. Though relatively few women are employed as craftsmen their average time with the same employer was equal to men's. Interestingly enough, the stability of women opeatives was not very much less than that of men operatives. Among men and women clerical workers, however, men had been with the same employer for a considerably longer period of time than women. Men in this occupation are older as a group than are the women so employed; and, in addition, men probably were offered more opportunities for advancement in their jobs (table 18).

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CHART X

LABOR TURNOVER RATES OF WOMEN

(SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES)

*INCLUDES DISCHARGES AND MISCELLANEOUS SEPARATIONS

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 15. Labor Turnover Rates of Women in Selected Manufacturing Industries: 1950-1952 (Quarterly)

(Per 100 women)

Month and year	Separations			Total accessions
	Total	Quits	Other 1/	
1952				
October	4.5	3.2	1.3	6.1
July	4.9	2.8	2.1	5.2
April	4.5	2.4	2.1	4.1
January	4.8	2.4	2.4	5.2
1951				
October	5.2	2.6	2.6	4.9
July	4.7	2.6	2.1	4.4
April	4.6	2.6	2.0	4.5
January	4.2	2.5	1.7	5.4
1950				
October	4.1	2.7	1.4	5.4
July	2.9	2.0	.9	4.8
April	3.5	1.8	1.7	3.5
January	3.8	1.7	2.1	4.1

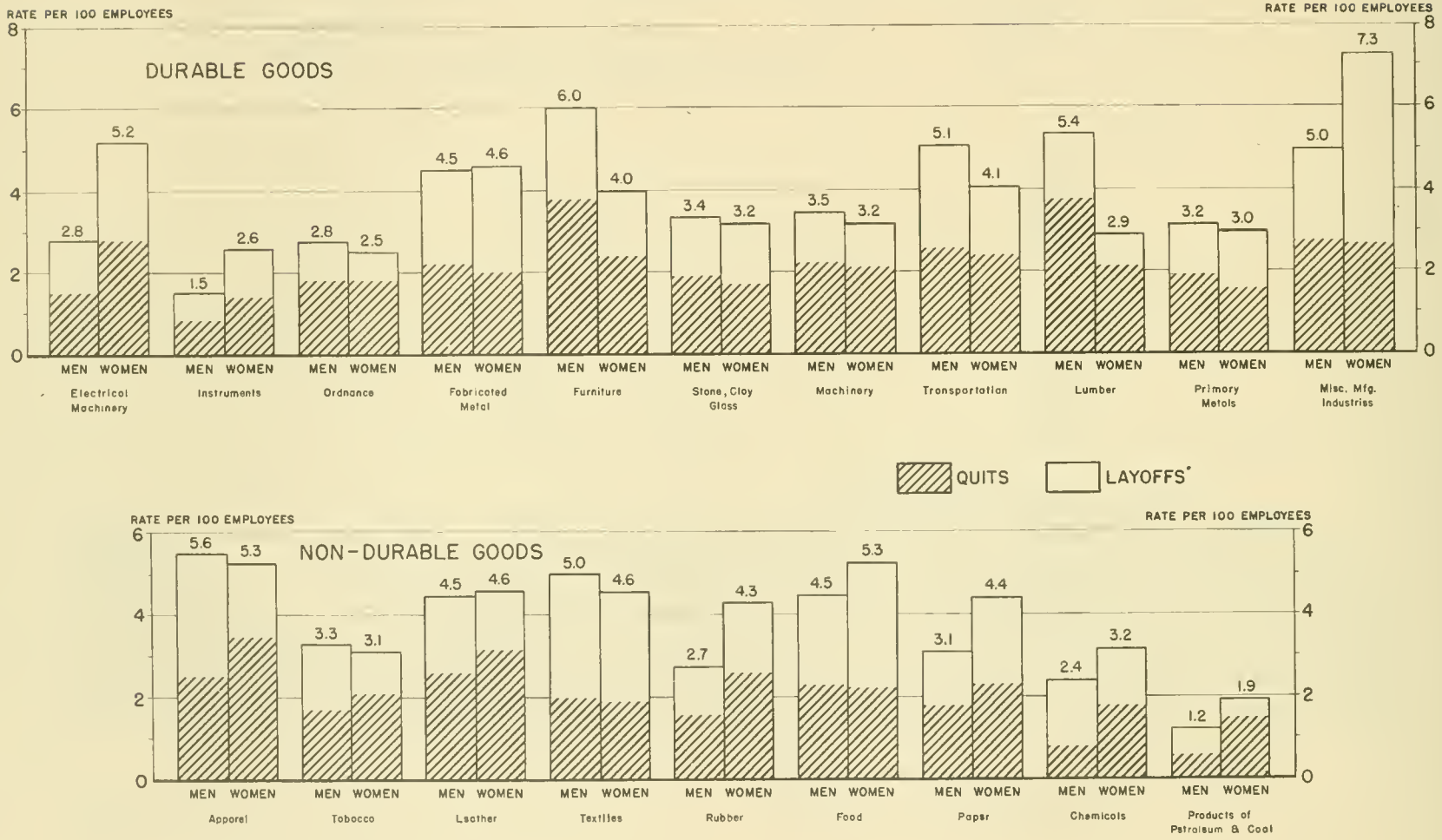
1/ Includes discharges, lay-offs, and miscellaneous separations.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Payrolls.

CHART XI

JOB SEPARATION RATES OF MEN AND WOMEN: 1952

SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES



*INCLUDES DISCHARGES AND MISCELLANEOUS SEPARATIONS
SOURCE: U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Table 16. Labor Turnover Rates of Women and Men in Selected Manufacturing Industries: 1952 1/

(Per 100 employees)

Industry group	Percent women formed of all employees 2/	Separations						Total accessions	
		Total		Quits		Other 3/			
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Manufacturing	26	4.5	4.0	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.8	4.1	3.6
Durable goods - Total	17	4.4	4.1	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.8	4.3	3.9
Electrical machinery	38	5.2	2.8	2.8	1.5	2.4	1.3	3.7	2.5
Instruments and related products	35	2.6	1.5	1.4	.8	1.2	.7	2.9	2.2
Ordnance and accessories	28	2.5	2.8	1.8	1.8	.7	1.0	4.2	4.3
Fabricated metal products (except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment)	19	4.6	4.5	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.3	4.4	3.8
Furniture and fixtures	18	4.0	6.0	2.4	3.8	1.6	2.2	4.6	4.7
Stone, clay and glass products	17	3.2	3.4	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.5	3.3	3.2
Machinery (except electrical)	14	3.2	3.5	2.1	2.2	1.1	1.3	3.5	3.2
Transportation equipment	13	4.1	5.1	2.4	2.6	1.7	2.5	6.4	5.6
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	7	2.9	5.4	2.1	3.8	.8	1.6	4.7	6.0
Primary metal industries	6	3.0	3.2	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.3	3.3	2.8
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	39	7.3	5.0	2.7	2.8	4.6	2.2	5.5	4.2
Nondurable goods - Total	37	4.7	3.8	2.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	4.0	2.7
Apparel and other finished textile products	76	5.3	5.6	3.5	2.5	1.8	3.1	4.3	3.7
Tobacco manufactures	60	3.1	3.3	2.1	1.7	1.0	1.6	2.5	2.9
Leather and leather products	49	4.6	4.5	3.2	2.6	1.4	1.9	4.4	3.4
Textile mill products	43	4.6	5.0	1.9	2.0	2.7	3.0	3.8	3.0
Rubber products	27	4.3	2.7	2.6	1.6	1.7	1.1	4.2	2.7
Food and kindred products	24	5.3	4.5	2.2	2.3	3.1	2.2	4.6	3.7
Paper and allied products	23	4.4	3.1	2.3	1.8	2.1	1.3	3.8	2.4
Chemicals and allied products	19	3.2	2.4	1.8	.8	1.4	1.6	2.6	1.2
Products of petroleum and coal	6	1.9	1.2	1.5	.6	.4	.6	2.4	1.5

1/ Data refer to April of each year.
2/ Data for March 1952.
3/ Includes discharges, lay-offs, and miscellaneous separations.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Payrolls.

Table 17. Median Years on Current Job: January 1951 [1/]

Age	Women	Men
Total employed	2.2	3.9
14 to 17 years	0.5	0.8
18 and 19 years	.6	.6
20 to 24 years	1.4	1.2
25 to 34 years	1.8	2.8
35 to 44 years	3.1	4.5
45 to 54 years	4.0	7.6
55 to 64 years	4.5	9.3
65 years and over	4.9	10/

Marital status	Women
Total employed women	2.2
Married women	2.1
With no children under 18 years of age	2.8
With one or more children under 18 years of age	1.3
With children under 6 years of age	.8
With children 6 to 17 years of age	2.1
Single women	2.0
Widowed, divorced or separated women	2.7

1/ Current job was defined for all workers as a continuous period of employment, but with the following variations for different classes of workers: For wage and salary workers - with a single employer; odd job workers - at the particular type of job; self-employed - in a particular type of business or professional practice in the same locality; and unpaid workers - on the family-operated farm or business. In government employment, different agencies or bureaus were considered as different employers.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 18. Median Years on Current Job, by Occupation Group: January 1951

Occupation group	Women	Men
Total employed	2.2	3.9
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	2.5	4.3
Farmers and farm managers	7.1	9.6
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm	4.2	5.3
Clerical and kindred workers	2.5	3.9
Sales workers	1.6	2.6
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	4.2	4.3
Operatives and kindred workers	2.3	3.1
Private household workers	1.2	1/
Service workers, except private household	1.2	2.9
Farm laborers and foremen	4.8	2.4
Laborers, except farm and mine	1/	1.6

1/ Base too small to justify computation.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Between 1890 and 1950 the population of working age (14 years and over) underwent important changes in size, sex composition, and age distribution. The size of the population of working age increased almost threefold, from 42 million to 113 million, with women accounting for a slightly larger proportion of the increase than men. The sex composition was reversed. In 1890, men in the working-age groups outnumbered women by more than 1 million; in 1950, women in these groups outnumbered men by almost 1½ million. Most significantly, the number of men and women 45 years and over increased substantially more than the number under 45: Whereas men and women 45 years and over quadrupled in number, those under 45 only doubled.

Long-Term Labor Force Changes

Like the population, the labor force increased almost threefold between 1890 and 1950 - from 22 million to more than 60 million. Changes in the sex and age composition of the labor force were substantially more pronounced than in the population. The number of women in the labor force increased approximately 4½ times, while the number of men increased about 2½ times. The greater proportion of both of these increases was in age groups 45 years and over, with women in these ages showing an almost ninefold increase. Thus, the number of women 45 years and over increased 4 times in the population, but almost 9 times in the labor force (table 19).

In view of this tremendous increase in the number of older women who were working, it is understandable that the median age of women workers advanced from 25 years in 1890 to 36 years in 1950, the most rapid change taking place between 1940 and 1950 when World War II created many additional job opportunities for women. Although the median age for men in the labor force advanced during this period, it was a much smaller change, from 34 years to 39 years. The median age of women workers today is only 3 years below that of men workers; whereas in 1890, it was 9 years (table 19).

Almost 1 out of every 3 women of working wage was in the labor force in 1950, as contrasted with less than 1 out of every 5 in 1890. The proportion of women in the population who work increased since 1890 in every age group, except 14 to 19 years. Almost three times the proportion of women between 35 and 54 years of age and twice the proportion of women 25 to 34 and 55 to 64 were working in 1950. Clearly then, it was women between the ages of 35 and 54 who had the greatest effect on the overall participation rates of women workers (table 20).

In the decade 1940 to 1950, changes in the woman labor force continued to follow the long-term pattern of an overall increasing participation rate with the emphasis on the older age groups. However, the pattern was somewhat more pronounced during this short period than during the preceding 50 years. Well over one-third as many women - 3.5 million - were added to the labor force during this one decade as during the previous 5 decades. Had women's participation in the labor force followed the same average rate of increase between 1940 and 1950 as during the previous 50 years, only about 2½ million would have been added to the woman labor force. Likewise, if the participation rates of older women had not increased so significantly between 1940 and 1950, the median age of women workers probably would have risen only 1 or 2 years rather than 4 years (table 20).

Labor Force Changes Since 1940

Before World War II women under 35 years of age outnumbered their elders in the woman labor force; and even at the height of the war (1945), they still predominated in the labor force. But, when the war was over, a greater proportion of these younger women left the labor force to take up duties of home and family, while many of the older women remained at work. Thus, in 1947 - for the first time - women 35 years and older outnumbered younger women workers. In 1953, these older women constituted 56 percent of the woman labor force; the number of women in the age groups 18 to 34 years in the labor force had decreased while all other age groups, even 65 years and over, increased in comparison with 1940 (table 21).

The proportions of women who work increased sharply in all age groups during World War II, reaching a peak in 1945. After the war, participation rates dropped for all age groups, but not so sharply for groups 35 years and over. In 1953, women in all age groups except 20 to 34

were participating in the labor force to a greater extent than in 1940; but significantly, only in the age groups 45 to 64 were women participating at a higher rate than in 1945. Today, therefore, a smaller proportion of the women in the child-bearing, child-rearing age groups are in the labor force than in 1940; while a much higher proportion of the women in older age groups are working (table 20).

Occupations

Almost half of the 18 million employed women in April 1953 were between the ages of 25 and 44 (table 23). More than half of these women were employed as clerical or factory workers, whereas slightly less than half of all women workers were so employed (table 24).

Clerical work is, of course, a very important field of work for women - more than one-fourth of all employed women were clerical or kindred workers in 1953. However, clerical work as a field for women decreases in importance as age advances. Young women (14 to 24 years) are heavily concentrated in clerical work. Next to clerical work, young women are found in factory, private household work, or service work, but to a substantially lesser degree (table 24).

Although women 25 to 44 years of age outnumber all other age groups in clerical occupations (as they do in most occupations because of their larger numbers), they are almost as apt to be factory workers as clerical workers. This group, like young workers, also tends to be in service work next to clerical and factory work. However, professional work is almost as important to them as service work (table 24).

The next older group, 45 to 64 years of age, tends to spread more evenly over the occupational groups, with some concentration in clerical and factory work (table 24). Significant proportions of this group are also found in service work, professional work, and private household work - in that order of importance.

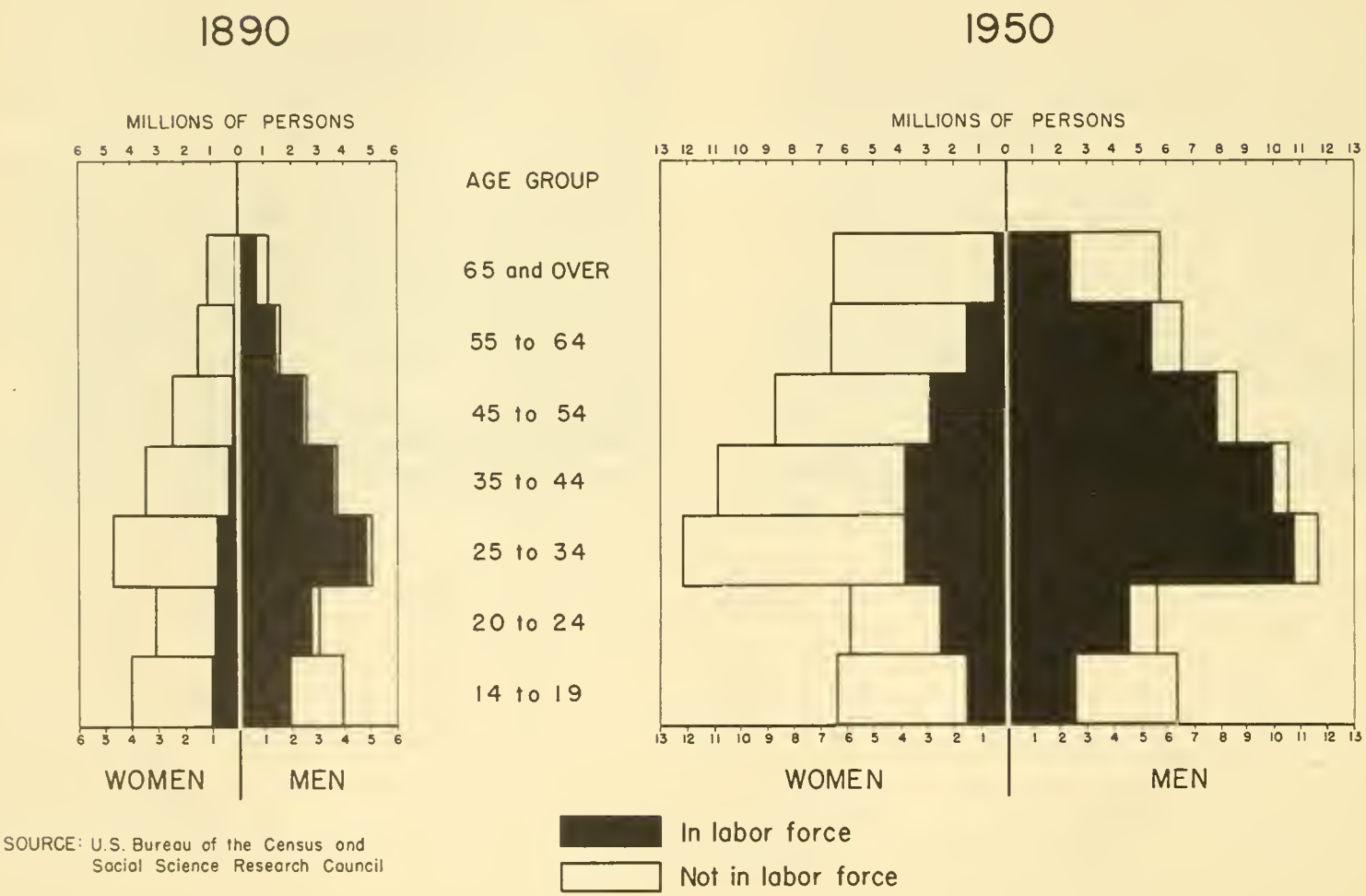
Elderly women, 65 years and over, are concentrated in private household work and service work. One-fourth of the employed women in this age group in 1953 were private household workers and one-fifth were service workers. Undoubtedly this is, in large part, due to the fact that women of advanced years may prefer the part-time schedules which frequently are possible in such work and, in addition, are not so well able to secure or hold the office jobs which are so popular among young women. On the other hand, we find that only in this elderly group is there a significant concentration in the group called "Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm." Perhaps this is due to their mature years, length of experience in their chosen fields, or inheritance of businesses from their husbands. In addition to these three occupational groups, women 65 years and over are found also in professional work and factory work (table 24).

In summary, one might say that the young woman is most likely to be an office worker; the mature woman, an office or factory worker; the older woman, an office, factory, or service worker; and the elderly woman, a private household or service worker (table 24).

Although the overall occupational distribution of women workers showed no significant changes between 1951 and 1953, there were more occupational shifts among older women than among young women. Young women (14 to 24 years) showed some movement out of service work into clerical work, while women 25 to 44 years of age moved out of clerical work and into factory and service work. Older women (45 to 64 years) moved into professional, clerical, and sales work as well as into the crafts field and left factory and private household jobs. Women 65 years and over shifted mostly into private household work but also into professional and clerical work, having moved out of the sales and crafts fields. All age groups showed some decrease in the group termed, "Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm."

CHART XII

AGE OF POPULATION AND LABOR FORCE: 1890 and 1950



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census and Social Science Research Council

Table 19. Total Labor Force, by Age and Sex: 1890-1950 [1]

(In thousands)

Age and sex	1950	1940	1930	1920	1900	1890
Total [2]	60,428	53,299	47,404	40,282	27,640	21,833
14 to 19 years	4,041	4,014	4,386	4,587	4,064	2,981
20 to 24 years	7,169	7,723	7,063	5,865	4,481	3,774
25 to 34 years	14,682	13,683	11,634	10,327	7,072	5,732
35 to 44 years	13,766	11,241	10,268	8,340	5,279	3,997
45 to 54 years	10,816	9,072	7,615	6,163	3,599	2,783
55 to 64 years	7,049	5,432	4,400	3,437	2,031	1,630
65 years and over	2,904	2,134	2,038	1,563	1,114	936
Women [2]	16,512	13,015	10,396	8,229	4,999	3,704
14 to 19 years	1,474	1,395	1,591	1,640	1,230	984
20 to 24 years	2,521	2,688	2,316	1,785	1,179	938
25 to 34 years	3,839	3,607	2,581	2,011	1,139	789
35 to 44 years	3,762	2,500	1,823	1,303	652	427
45 to 54 years	2,902	1,691	1,224	869	427	304
55 to 64 years	1,507	859	618	441	245	172
65 years and over	509	275	243	180	127	90
Median age	36.1	31.7	30.0	28.4	25.8	24.6
Men [2]	43,916	40,284	37,008	32,053	22,641	18,129
14 to 19 years	2,569	2,619	2,795	2,947	2,834	1,997
20 to 24 years	4,650	5,035	4,747	4,080	3,302	2,836
25 to 34 years	10,843	10,076	9,053	8,316	5,933	4,943
35 to 44 years	10,004	8,741	8,445	7,037	4,627	3,570
45 to 54 years	7,915	7,381	6,391	5,294	3,172	2,479
55 to 64 years	5,540	4,573	3,782	2,996	1,786	1,458
65 years and over	2,394	1,859	1,795	1,383	987	846
Median age	38.9	37.8	37.3	44.7	33.7	33.6

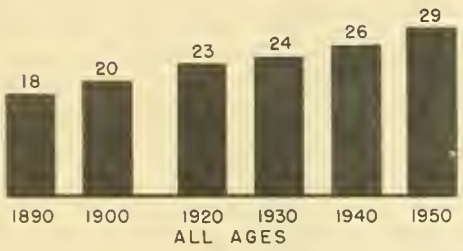
[1] Data refer to April, except 1890 (June), 1900 (June), and 1920 (January).

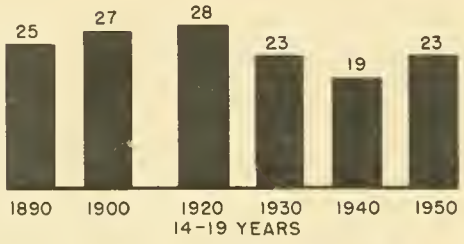
[2] Details do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding. Figures for periods prior to 1940 adjusted to include persons of unknown age.

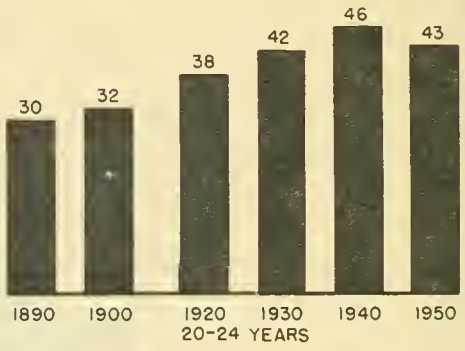
Source: See Table 1.

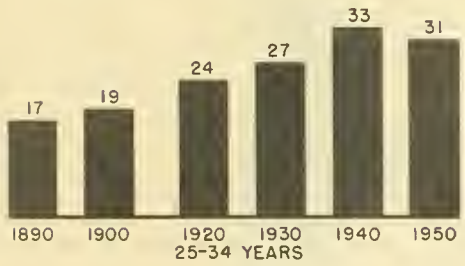
CHART XIII

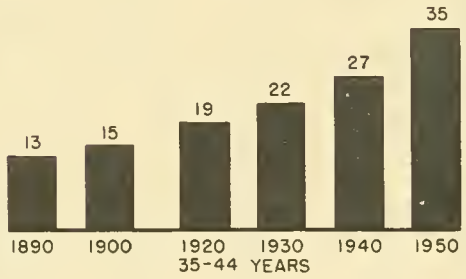
PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN THE POPULATION WHO WORKED: 1890 — 1950

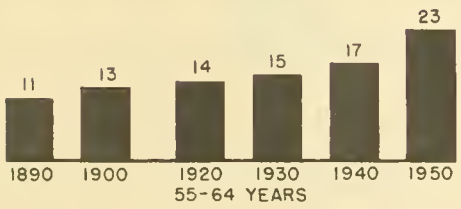


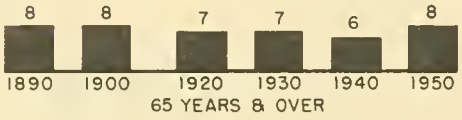












SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 20. Labor Force Participation Rates of the Total Population, by Age and Sex: 1890-1950 1/

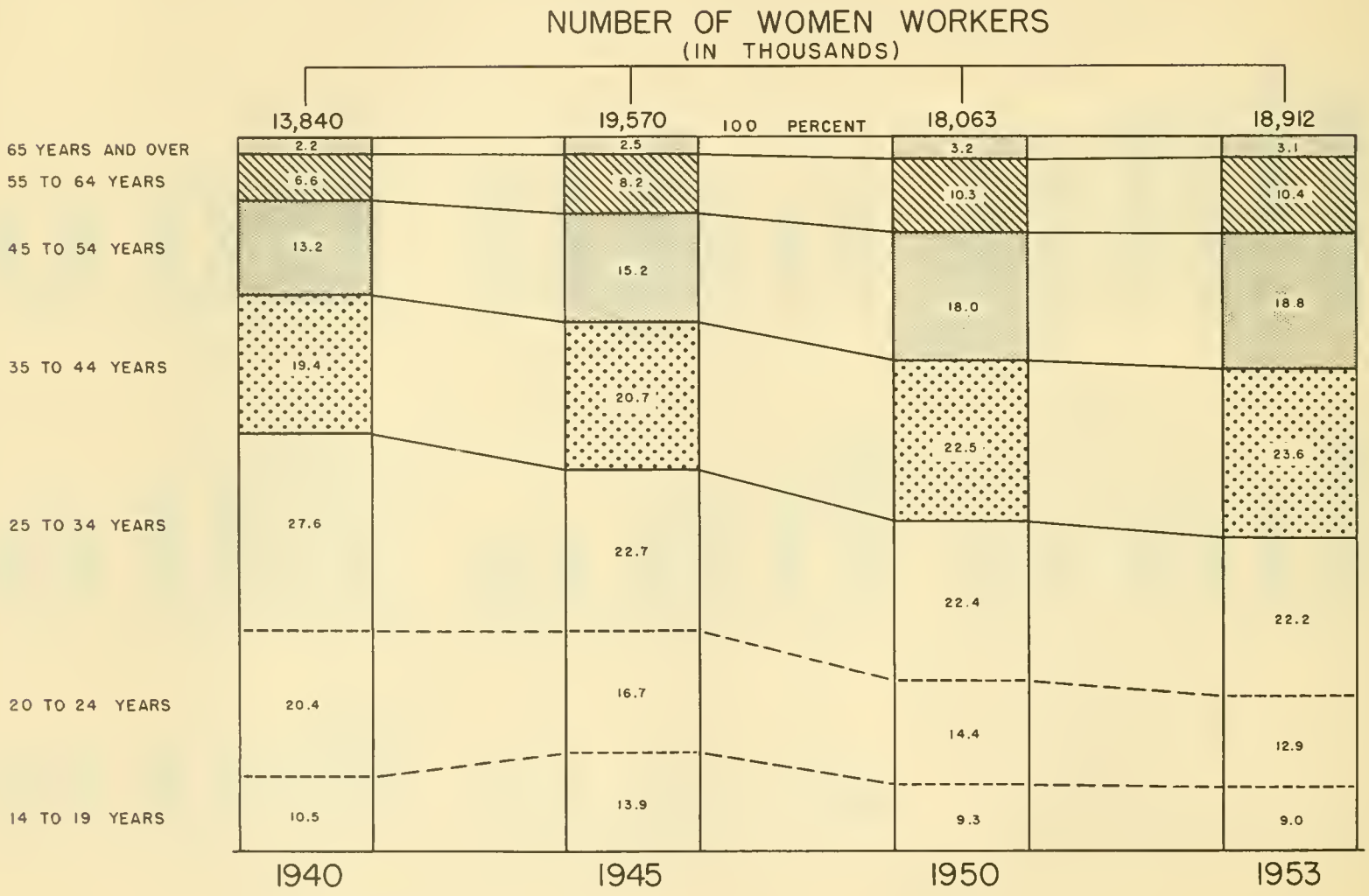
Age and sex	1950	1940	1930	1920	1900	1890
Total	53.6	52.7	53.2	54.3	53.7	52.2
14 to 19 years	31.6	27.2	31.4	39.8	44.4	37.2
20 to 24 years	61.7	66.7	64.9	63.1	60.9	60.6
25 to 34 years	61.4	64.1	61.3	60.1	58.3	58.2
35 to 44 years	64.0	61.3	59.7	58.9	57.1	56.4
45 to 54 years	62.3	58.5	58.5	58.6	56.0	54.9
55 to 64 years	53.0	51.4	52.4	52.4	50.5	52.0
65 years and over	23.7	23.7	30.6	31.6	36.0	38.6
Women	28.9	25.7	23.6	22.7	20.0	18.3
14 to 19 years	23.2	18.9	22.8	28.3	26.8	24.5
20 to 24 years	42.8	45.6	41.8	37.5	31.7	30.2
25 to 34 years	31.5	33.4	27.0	23.7	19.4	16.8
35 to 44 years	34.6	27.3	21.7	19.2	15.0	12.7
45 to 54 years	33.4	22.4	19.7	17.9	14.2	12.5
55 to 64 years	22.7	16.6	15.3	14.3	12.6	11.5
65 years and over	7.9	6.0	7.3	7.3	8.3	7.6
Men	78.9	79.7	82.1	84.5	85.7	84.3
14 to 19 years	40.0	35.4	40.1	51.5	62.0	50.0
20 to 24 years	81.1	88.5	88.8	69.9	90.6	90.9
25 to 34 years	92.6	95.7	95.9	95.7	94.9	96.0
35 to 44 years	94.1	95.4	95.7	95.4	94.5	95.9
45 to 54 years	91.3	92.7	93.8	93.5	92.8	93.9
55 to 64 years	83.0	84.6	86.5	86.3	86.1	89.0
65 years and over	41.3	42.2	54.0	55.6	63.2	68.2

1/ Data refer to April, except 1890 (June), 1900 (June), and 1920 (January).

Source: See Table 1.

CHART XIV

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN WORKERS: 1940, 1945, 1950, 1953



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 21. Age of Women in the Civilian Labor Force: 1940-1953[1/]

(In thousands)

Age	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Total	18,912	18,798	18,607	18,063	17,167	17,155	16,320	16,590	19,570	18,450	18,100	15,460	13,930	13,840
14 to 19 years	1,704	1,768	1,724	1,677	1,767	1,844	1,820	1,930	2,720	2,730	2,580	1,910		1,460
14 and 15 years	176	188	158	181	155	189	170	2/	280	259	188	2/		57
16 and 17 years	534	564	546	513	529	543	530	2/	934	847	809	2/	4,370	333
18 and 19 years	994	1,016	1,020	983	1,083	1,112	1,120	2/	1,506	1,624	1,583	2/		1,070
20 to 24 years	2,438	2,442	2,584	2,598	2,484	2,703	2,690	2,830	3,270	3,240	2,930	2,820		2,820
25 to 34 years	4,192	4,226	4,188	4,045	3,880	3,839	3,640	7,420	4,450	4,142	4,358	3,906		3,820
35 to 44 years	4,470	4,360	4,203	4,056	3,898	3,749	3,580		4,060	3,888	3,722	3,113	8,190	2,680
45 to 54 years	3,556	3,558	3,382	3,245	3,027	2,907	2,690	4,000	2,969	2,749	2,595	2,212		1,830
55 to 64 years	1,968	1,920	1,954	1,868	1,605	1,599	1,460		1,611	1,321	1,415	1,117	1,370	920
65 years and over	584	524	574	576	509	515	440	410	490	380	500	380		310
Median age 3/	37.5	37.2	36.9	36.8	36.2	35.5	35.0	34.3	33.5	32.9	33.1	32.7	32.2	31.9
	Percent distribution													
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 19 years	9.0	9.4	9.3	9.3	10.3	10.7	11.2	11.6	13.9	14.8	14.3	12.4		10.5
14 and 15 years	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	-	1.4	1.4	1.0	-		0.4
16 and 17 years	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.2	-	4.8	4.6	4.5	-	31.4	2.4
18 and 19 years	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.4	6.3	6.5	6.9	-	7.7	8.8	8.7	-		7.7
20 to 24 years	12.9	13.0	13.9	14.4	14.5	15.8	16.5	17.1	16.7	17.6	16.2	18.2		20.4
25 to 34 years	22.2	22.5	22.5	22.4	22.6	22.4	22.3	44.7	22.7	22.4	24.1	25.3		27.6
35 to 44 years	23.6	23.2	22.6	22.5	22.7	21.9	21.9		20.7	21.1	20.6	20.1	58.8	19.4
45 to 54 years	18.8	18.9	18.2	18.0	17.6	16.9	16.5	24.1	15.2	14.9	14.3	14.3		13.2
55 to 64 years	10.4	10.2	10.5	10.3	9.3	9.3	8.9		8.2	7.2	7.8	7.2	9.8	6.6
65 years and over	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.8	2.5		2.2

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

2/ Not available.

3/ For the years 1941 and 1946, median computed on estimated age intervals smaller than those shown in table.

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

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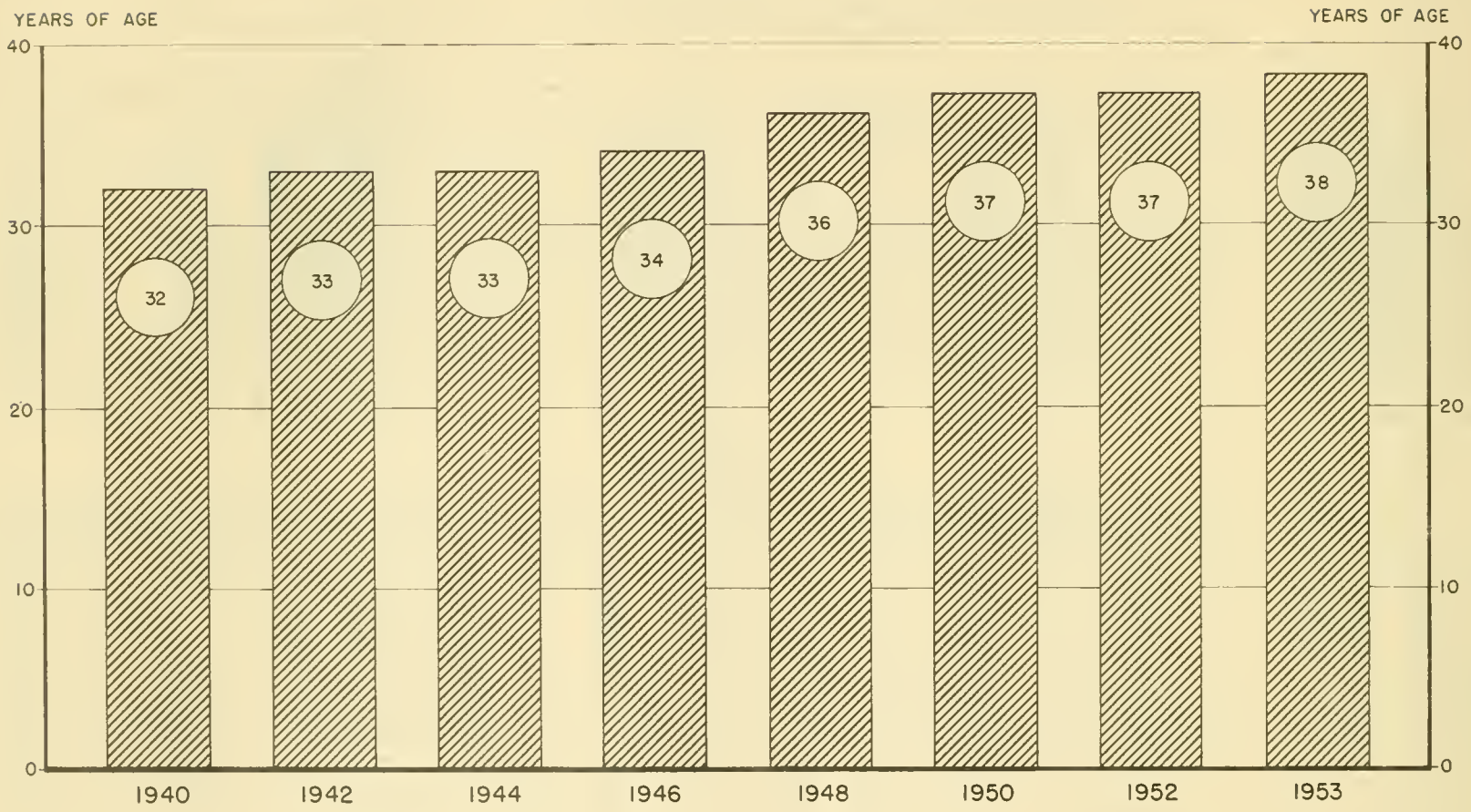
CHART XV

MEDIAN AGE OF WOMEN WORKERS
1940 TO 1953



SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 22. Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates of Women, by Age: 1940-1953 1/

Age	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Total - - - -	32.4	32.7	32.7	32.1	30.9	31.2	30.0	30.9	37.0	35.2	34.9	30.1	27.4	27.6
14 to 19 years - - - -	26.7	27.9	27.5	26.6	27.9	28.7	27.7	28.8	39.9	39.4	36.6	26.7	2/	20.0
14 and 15 years - - -	8.0	8.6	7.4	8.6	7.6	9.3	8.1	2/	12.2	2/	2/	2/	2/	2.4
16 and 17 years - - -	25.3	26.8	26.7	25.2	25.4	25.3	24.2	2/	40.8	2/	2/	2/	2/	13.8
18 and 19 years - - -	48.1	49.7	48.7	45.6	49.1	49.6	48.9	2/	67.3	2/	2/	2/	2/	42.7
20 to 24 years - - - -	44.3	43.4	45.0	44.6	41.9	44.9	44.3	47.0	54.9	54.3	49.1	47.6	2/	48.0
25 to 34 years - - - -	34.2	34.7	34.6	33.6	32.5	32.5	31.2	2/	40.2	37.0	39.2	35.5	2/	35.5
35 to 44 years - - - -	39.7	39.9	39.0	38.2	37.4	36.5	35.4	2/	40.7	40.5	39.3	33.2	2/	29.4
45 to 54 years - - - -	39.2	39.4	38.1	37.1	35.2	34.4	32.3	2/	36.9	34.6	33.0	28.5	2/	24.5
55 to 64 years - - - -	28.6	27.2	28.2	27.6	24.3	25.0	23.5	2/	27.5	23.1	25.4	20.5	2/	18.0
65 years and over - - -	8.5	8.2	9.3	9.7	8.8	9.2	8.1	7.8	9.6	7.6	10.3	8.0	2/	6.9

1/ Civilian noninstitutional population. Statistics are for April of each year except 1940, where they refer to the last week in March.

2/ Not available.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 23. Percent Distribution of Employed Women in Major Occupation Groups, by Age: April 1953

Major occupation group	Number (in thousands)	Total	14-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Total employed women	18,434	100.0	21.5	46.0	29.4	3.1
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	1,928	100.0	16.3	48.1	32.2	3.5
Farmers and farm managers	150	100.0	1.3	29.3	57.3	12.0
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm	888	100.0	1.6	46.2	45.0	7.2
Clerical and kindred workers	5,090	100.0	34.1	44.4	20.5	.9
Sales workers	1,434	100.0	23.7	39.9	34.3	2.1
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	268	100.0	12.7	42.5	44.1	.7
Operatives and kindred workers	3,862	100.0	17.1	55.8	25.6	1.6
Private household workers	1,854	100.0	21.2	38.6	32.5	7.7
Service workers, except private household	2,300	100.0	15.9	44.0	35.0	5.0
Farm laborers and foremen	580	100.0	15.1	40.0	41.4	3.4
Laborers, except farm and mine	80	100.0	27.5	40.0	30.0	2.5

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 24. Percent Distribution of Employed Women, by Major Occupation Group and Age: 1951 and 1953 [1/]

Major occupation group	1953					1951				
	Total, 14 years and over	14-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Total, 14 years and over	14-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Total employed women - -	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers - - - - - -	10.5	7.9	10.9	11.4	12.0	10.0	8.1	10.7	10.4	9.5
Farmers and farm managers - -	.8	.1	.5	1.6	3.2	1.1	.2	1.0	2.0	3.4
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm -	4.8	.3	4.8	7.4	11.3	5.8	1.0	5.8	8.6	14.7
Clerical and kindred workers-	27.6	43.8	26.7	19.3	8.1	27.6	42.1	28.1	17.5	7.2
Sales workers - - - - - - - -	7.8	8.6	6.8	9.1	5.3	7.1	7.9	6.4	7.4	6.8
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers - - - - - -	1.5	.9	1.4	2.2	.4	1.2	1.0	1.3	.9	2.7
Operatives and kindred workers	21.0	16.6	25.4	18.3	10.6	20.9	16.2	24.3	20.5	10.2
Private household workers - -	10.1	9.9	8.5	11.1	25.0	10.5	9.8	7.7	13.7	24.9
Service workers, except private household - - - - -	12.5	9.2	12.0	14.8	20.4	12.0	10.5	10.9	14.4	16.6
Farm laborers and foremen - -	3.1	2.2	2.7	4.4	3.5	3.4	2.4	3.4	4.1	4.1
Laborers, except farm and mine - - - - - - - - - - -	.4	.6	.3	.5	.4	.5	.9	.4	.6	-

1/ Statistics are for April of each year.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

VII. MARITAL STATUS

Population Changes

Since 1940, the number of single women in the population has been steadily declining - from almost 14 million in 1940 to only 11 million in 1952, a decrease of more than 20 percent. During this same 12-year period, the number of married women in the population has steadily increased, from 30.1 million in 1940 to 38.7 million by 1952, an increase of 28½ percent. There has also been an increase of 1.8 million widowed or divorced women in the population (table 25).

Reflecting these numerical changes, the marital distribution of the woman population today differs markedly from what it was in 1940. In 1952, only a fifth of the woman population 14 years and over were single, and two-thirds were married; in 1940, more than a fourth of the women were single, and only three-fifths were married. The proportion of widowed and divorced women in the population was about the same in 1952 as in 1940 - approximately 14 percent (table 26).

Labor Force Changes

Partly as a result of these population changes, the marital composition of the woman labor force has changed dramatically in the last 12 years. The population decline in single women was reflected by an almost equal decline in the number of single women in the labor force: From 6.7 million in 1940 to 5.5 million in 1952, a decrease of 18 percent. Among married women workers, on the other hand, there was an increase in number of more than 100 percent - from 5 million in 1940 to 10.4 million in 1952; and among widowed and divorced women there was a 40-percent increase in the number working, from slightly over 2 million to nearly 3 million during these years (table 25).

More than half of the woman labor force today is married. In 1940, however, married women formed only a little more than a third of all women workers. The proportion of single

women workers, by contrast, declined from almost a half in 1940 to considerably less than a third by 1952. The proportion of widowed and divorced women in the labor force, as in the population, has remained the same - about 15 percent of the woman labor force (table 26).

Population changes alone, however, do not account for the "new (married) look" of today's women workers, by comparison with 1940. Married women increased by 29 percent in the population during these years, but by more than 100 percent in the labor force because a much larger proportion of married women sought jobs outside of their homes during this period. In 1940, only 17 percent of the married women in the population were workers; but in 1952 about 27 percent of these women were workers. Among single women, and divorced and widowed women, on the other hand, the proportions in the labor force changed very little in these years - about one-half for single women and about one-third for widowed and divorced women (table 27).

Labor Force in Relation to Population

This phenomenal increase in the proportion of married women who work began during the years of World War II, when the proportion of married women who were working or seeking work increased from 17 percent in 1940 to 26 percent in 1944. These women, of course, were needed as replacements for men who had left civilian jobs to serve in the Armed Forces, and many of these women were the wives of servicemen. Following World War II, there was a definite decline in the number and proportion of married women who were working, as men returned from the Armed Forces and families were reunited. By 1948, however, the participation rate for married women had again begun to increase, and by 1951 exceeded the World War II peak (table 27). Undoubtedly the primary impetus to this post-World War II increase in the proportion of married women who are working has been the need for married women's contributions to the economic solvency of their homes and families, as well as the common American desire for an improved standard of living. (See ch. X, Women as Heads of Families and Annual Income.)

The need for additional workers in the Nation's civilian labor force during World War II was responsible also for an increase in the proportion of single women who were working - from 48 percent in 1940 to 59 percent in 1944. However, this proportion returned to about its prewar level following the war, and has remained fairly constant ever since (table 27). As a matter of fact, there are relatively few single women today who are not already working. In the age group 25 to 34 years, for example, 83 percent of all single women in the population

are in the labor force, as compared with only 27 percent of the married women of these ages, many of whom have young children. The World War II expansion in the proportion of single women who were working undoubtedly occurred chiefly among girls of school age (14 to 19 years) who, during the war years as today, comprised the bulk of single women not already in the labor force. (See ch. XI, Labor Reserve.)

Occupations

Regardless of marital status, women workers tend to concentrate in a few occupations: More than a third (37 percent) of the employed women in April 1952 were in clerical, sales and kindred jobs(of which almost 80 percent were clerical jobs); about a fifth were in service occupations; another fifth worked as operatives or on kindred jobs; and about a tenth were in professional or technical occupations. However, within these major concentrations marital status has some effect in determining the kind of occupation in which a woman finds employment (table 28).

Almost half (47 percent) of all employed single women were in clerical, sales or kindred jobs in April 1952. This is understandable, of course, since single women workers are by-and-large younger women (having a median age of 25 years). Consequently, they are often new entrants to the labor market; relatively free from family responsibilities, and able to undertake the full-time, year-round work required in these jobs. For these reasons, they are frequently willing to accept the relatively low wage levels common to many clerical jobs. Furthermore, clerical jobs are apt to be full-year jobs which result in higher annual incomes than many service jobs; also, they require a shorter training period, relative to earnings, than professional and technical jobs; and they are considered by many to have more prestige than the "blue-collar" factory jobs. These factors undoubtedly explain why service occupations claim only 17 percent of all employed single women, professional and technical jobs only 16 percent, and operative jobs or factory work only 13 percent (table 28).

Among married women with husbands present, only slightly more than a third are clerical or sales workers, almost a fourth are operatives, about a fifth are service workers, and only a tenth are professional and technical workers.

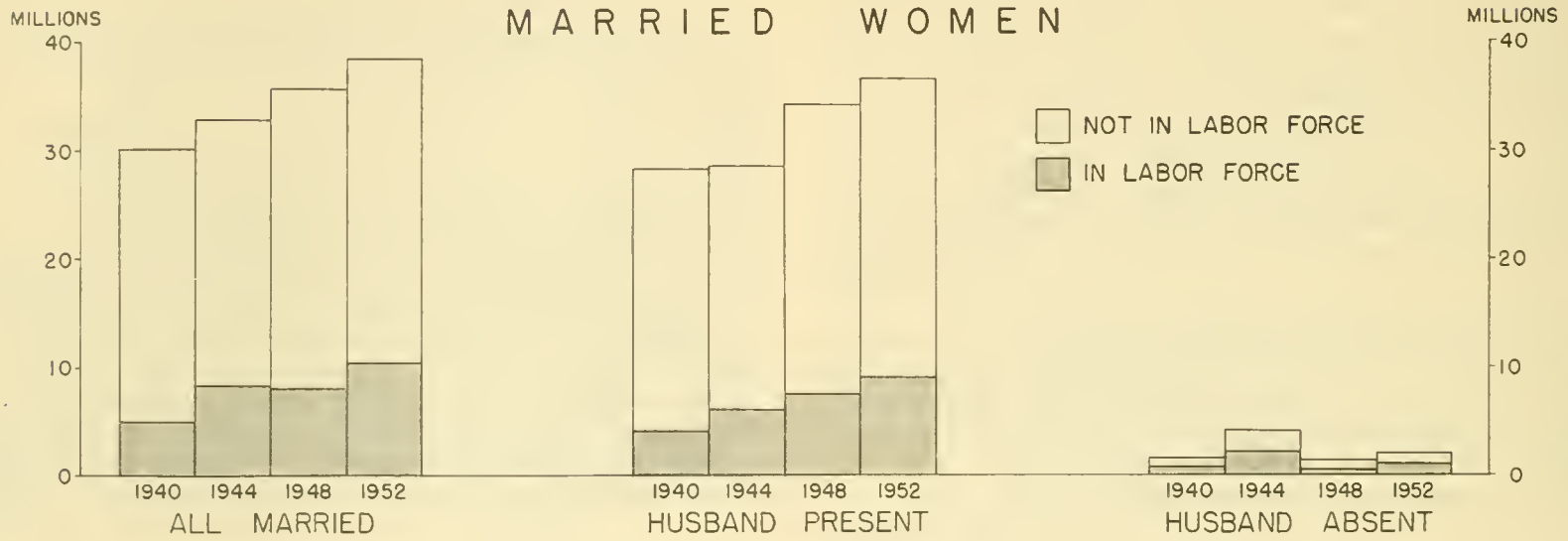
It is impossible, of course, to generalize about the widely varying family responsibilities which this group of women carry; however, many, and especially those among them who have children, are likely to work intermittently during the year. (See ch. IX, Part-Time Employment.) Those factory jobs which are most commonly open to women often require no previous work experience or training, provide relatively short on-the-job training, and - relative to the training required - offer higher earnings than service jobs. These factors account, in part, for the relatively high proportion of married women who find employment as operatives (table 28).

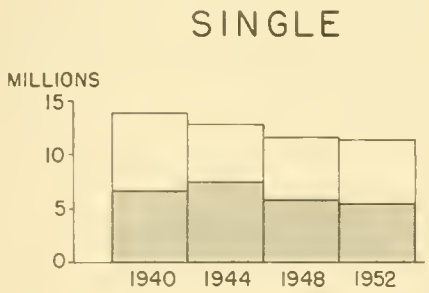
Widowed, divorced, and separated women tend to concentrate in service jobs, which employ more than a third of this group. Another fourth are found in clerical or sales jobs, and a fifth are employed in factories. This is the group of women most likely to be forced into the labor market suddenly and involuntarily, as they find themselves heads of families or faced with the necessity for self support. Service jobs are in many cases the only jobs available to them under these circumstances (table 28).

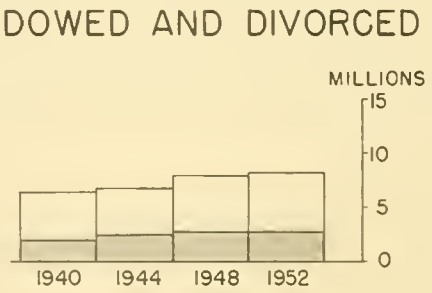
Because married women are more than half of all employed women, the proportion they form of the women employed in each of the major occupation groups is greater than that of either single women or widowed, divorced, and separated women, with two exceptions: Among professional and technical women, the proportion of single women is about as high as the proportion of married women (42 percent and 43 percent respectively). Among farmers and farm managers, more than half of the employed women are widowed, divorced, or separated. In general, married women form from two-fifths to a half of all employed women in each major occupation group except operatives and proprietors and managers, where they constitute three-fifths; and farm laborers, where they form four-fifths of all women engaged in these occupations.

CHART XVI

NUMBER OF WOMEN IN POPULATION AND LABOR FORCE BY MARITAL STATUS: 1940, 1944, 1948, 1952







SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 25. Marital Status of Women in the Civilian Population and Labor Force: 1940, 1944, and 1947-1952 1/

(In thousands)

Marital status	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1944	1940
	In population							
Women, 14 years and over	58.034	57,354	56,635	56,001	55,364	54,806	52,759	50,549
Single	11,068	10,946	11,126	11,174	11,623	12,078	12,875	13,936
Married	38,670	38,124	37,451	37,013	35,783	35,212	32,948	30,090
Husband present	36,510	35,998	35,925	35,323	34,289	33,458	28,667	28,517
Husband absent	2,160	2,126	1,526	1,690	1,494	1,754	4,287	1,574
In armed forces	478	398	2/	2/	2/	2/	2,788	2/
Other	1,682	1,728	2/	2/	2/	2/	1,493	2/
Widowed and divorced	8,296	8,284	8,058	7,815	7,958	7,516	6,936	6,523
	In labor force							
Women, 14 years and over	18,812	18,602	17,795	17,167	17,155	16,323	18,449	13,840
Single	5,532	5,430	5,621	5,682	5,943	6,181	7,542	6,710
Married	10,350	10,182	9,273	8,739	8,281	7,545	8,433	5,040
Husband present	9,222	9,086	8,550	7,959	7,553	6,676	6,226	4,200
Husband absent	1,128	1,096	723	780	728	869	2,207	840
In armed forces	226	158	2/	2/	2/	2/	1,464	2/
Other	902	938	2/	2/	2/	2/	743	2/
Widowed and divorced	2,930	2,990	2,901	2,746	2,931	2,597	2,474	2,090

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940 (the last week in March), and 1950 (first week in March).

2/ Not available.

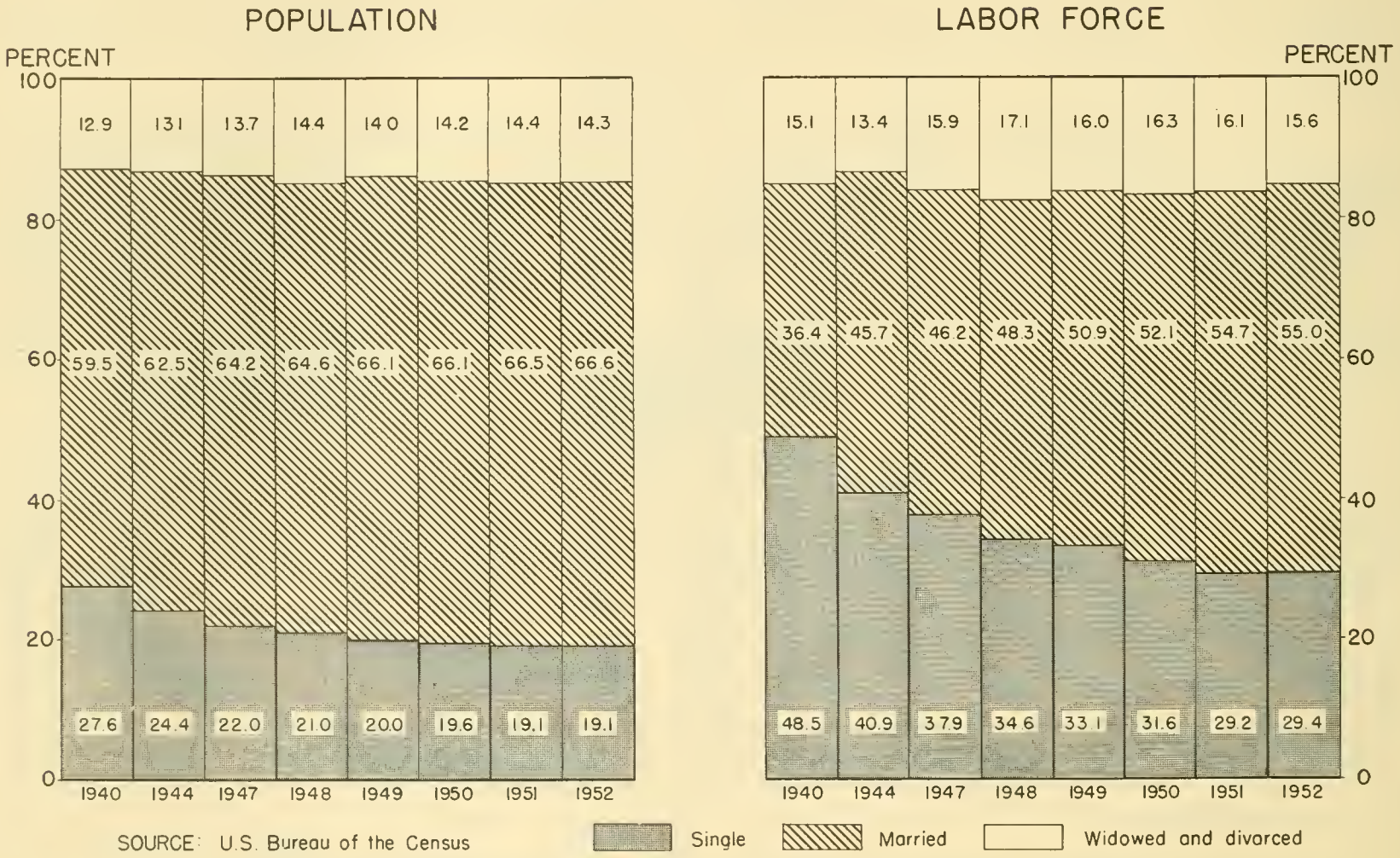
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

CHART XVII

MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE POPULATION AND LABOR FORCE

1940, 1944, 1947 to 1952

(PERCENT DISTRIBUTION)



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 26. Percent Distribution of Women in the Civilian Population and Labor Force, by Marital Status: 1940, 1944, and 1947-1952 1/

Marital status	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1944	1940
	In population							
Women, 14 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	19.1	19.1	19.6	20.0	21.0	22.0	24.4	27.6
Married	66.6	66.5	66.1	66.1	64.6	64.2	62.5	59.5
Husband present	62.9	62.8	63.4	63.1	61.9	61.0	54.3	56.4
Husband absent	3.7	3.7	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.2	8.1	3.1
In armed forces	.8	.7	-	-	-	-	5.3	-
Other	2.9	3.0	-	-	-	-	2.8	-
Widowed and divorced	14.3	14.4	14.2	14.0	14.4	13.7	13.1	12.9
	In labor force							
Women, 14 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	29.4	29.2	31.6	33.1	34.6	37.9	40.9	48.5
Married	55.0	54.7	52.1	50.9	48.3	46.2	45.7	36.4
Husband present	49.0	48.8	48.0	46.4	44.0	40.9	33.7	30.3
Husband absent	6.0	5.9	4.1	4.5	4.2	5.3	12.0	6.1
In armed forces	1.2	.8	--	-	-	-	7.9	-
Other	4.8	5.0	-	-	-	-	4.0	-
Widowed and divorced	15.6	16.1	16.3	16.0	17.1	15.9	13.4	15.1

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940 (last week in March), and 1950 (first week in March).

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 27. Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates of Women, by Marital Status: 1940, 1944, and 1947-1952 1/

Marital status	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1944	1940
Women, 14 years and over	32.4	32.4	31.4	30.7	31.0	29.8	35.0	27.4
Single	50.0	49.6	50.5	50.9	51.1	51.2	58.6	48.1
Married	26.8	26.7	24.8	23.6	23.1	21.4	25.6	16.7
Husband present	25.3	25.2	23.8	22.5	22.0	20.0	21.7	14.7
Husband absent	52.2	51.6	47.4	46.2	48.7	49.5	51.5	53.4
In armed forces	47.3	39.7	-	-	-	-	52.5	-
Other	53.6	54.3	-	-	-	-	49.8	-
Widowed and divorced	35.3	36.1	36.0	35.1	36.8	34.6	35.7	32.0

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940 (last week in March), and 1950 (first week in March).

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 28. Major Occupation Group of Employed Women, by Marital Status: April 1952

(In thousands)

Marital status	Number of employed workers	Major occupation group								
		Clerical, sales, and kindred workers	Service workers	Operatives and kindred workers	Professional, technical, and kindred workers	Proprietors, managers, and officials, except farm	Farm laborers and foremen	Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	Farmers and farm managers	Laborers, except farm and mine
Total employed women	18,234	6,700	3,882	3,496	2,026	978	614	244	166	128
Single	5,360	2,534	924	678	850	138	116	82	14	24
Married, husband present	8,946	3,096	1,606	2,058	870	594	480	116	66	60
Other marital status	3,928	1,070	1,352	760	306	246	18	46	86	44
	Percent distribution by occupation									
Total	100.0	36.7	21.3	19.2	11.1	5.4	3.4	1.3	.9	.7
Single	100.0	47.3	17.2	12.6	15.9	2.6	2.2	1.5	.3	.4
Married, husband present	100.0	34.6	18.0	23.0	9.7	6.6	5.4	1.3	.7	.7
Other marital status	100.0	27.2	34.4	19.3	7.8	6.3	.5	1.2	2.2	1.1
	Percent distribution by marital status									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	29.4	37.8	23.8	19.4	42.0	14.1	18.9	33.6	8.4	18.8
Married, husband present	49.1	46.2	41.4	58.9	42.9	60.7	78.2	47.5	39.8	46.9
Other marital status	21.5	16.0	34.8	21.7	15.1	25.2	2.9	18.9	51.8	34.4

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Labor Force Participation Since 1940

Of the almost 19 million women in the labor force in April 1952, more than $5\frac{1}{4}$ million - about 3 out of 10 - were mothers of children under 18 years of age. This number was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as the number of mothers who were working in 1940 (table 29).

Almost one-fourth of all of the mothers in the population, with children under 18 years of age, were working in 1952. Exactly comparable data for 1940 are not available. However, it has been estimated that the $1\frac{1}{2}$ million mothers who were working in 1940 represented less than 10 percent of the mothers in the population at that time. In other words, in 1940, less than one-tenth of the mothers in the population, who had children under 18 years of age, were working; by 1952, almost one-fourth of such mothers were in the labor force (table 30).

Between 1940 and 1946, during the years of World War II, the number of working mothers more than doubled, and the proportion of mothers who were working increased about 10 percentage points. Furthermore, the end of the war did not bring about any reversal of this trend; for both the number and the proportion of working mothers continued to increase steadily (tables 30 and 31).

Ages of Children of Working Mothers

Of the $5\frac{1}{4}$ million working mothers in April 1952, about 2 million had one or more young children under 6 years of age. The remaining $3\frac{1}{4}$ million women had older children only (between the ages of 6 and 17 years). The 2 million mothers of young children represented a little more than 10 percent of the woman labor

force in 1952, whereas mothers of older children only, represented about 17 percent of the woman labor force (table 29).

Working outside of the home is, of course, most difficult for mothers of young children, and this is reflected in the proportion of those mothers who are so engaged, by comparison with mothers who have children of older ages only. Whereas a little more than a third of the mothers of children between the ages of 6 and 17 years were working, only about a sixth of the mothers of preschool age children were in the labor force in 1952. Furthermore, the increase during the post-war years in the proportion of working mothers who had young children has been less pronounced than the increase among those who had children of school age only (table 30).

Marital Status of Mothers

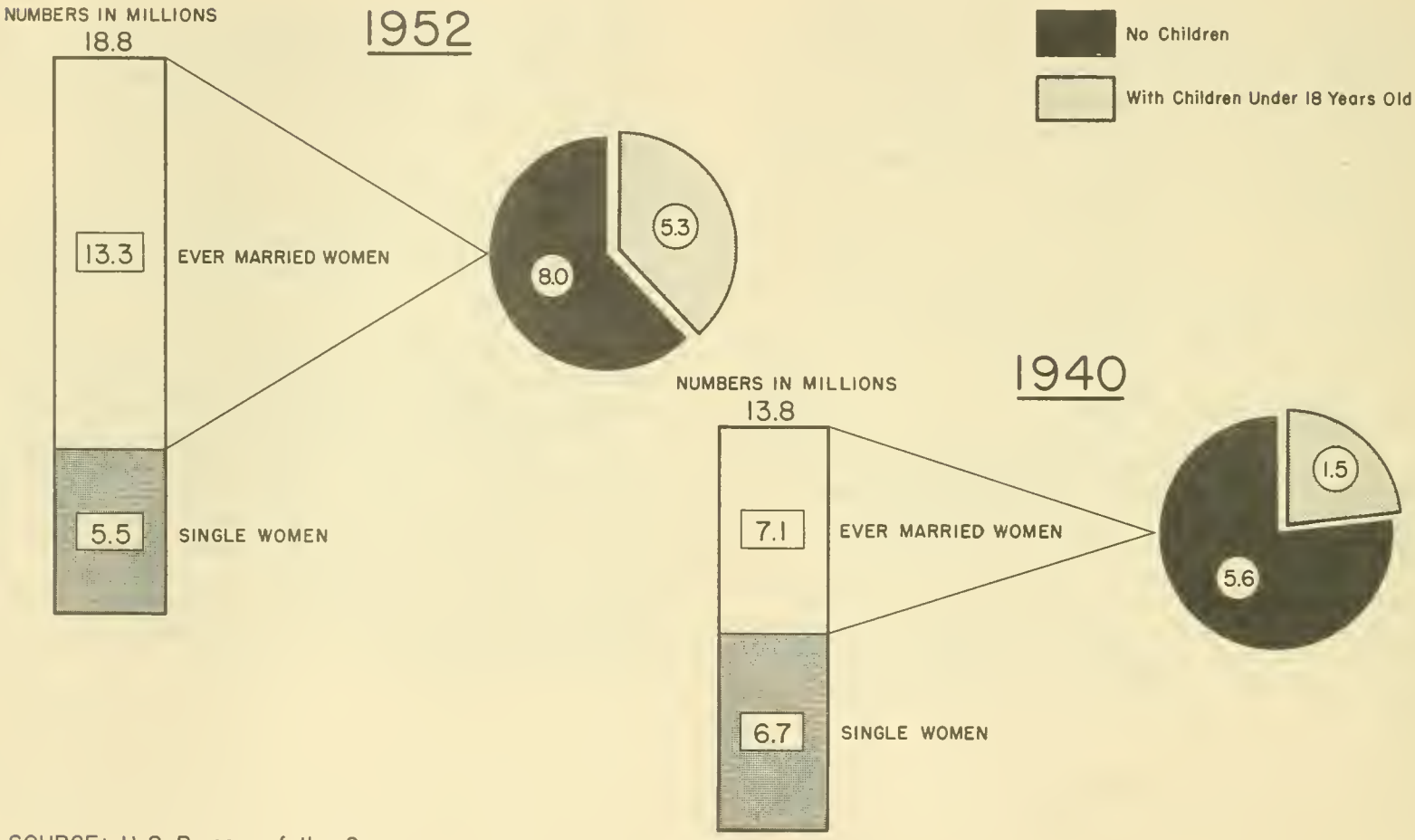
In view of the dual responsibility and physical strain involved for mothers who are employed outside of their homes, it may be assumed that the vast majority of mothers who work do so for economic reasons. This explains, in part, the tremendous difference in the proportion of working mothers among women who are living with their husbands by comparison with women who have children but who are widowed, divorced, or separated. Among the latter group, more than half were in the labor force in 1952. Among women whose husbands were present, on the other hand, only a fifth were in the labor force (table 31).

Among mothers of young children, only about 14 percent whose husbands are present were in the labor force; and while there has been a steady increase in this proportion since 1946, the difference between 1946 and 1952 is one of only 4.5 percentage points. Among mothers who are widowed, divorced, or separated, on the other hand, two-fifths were in the labor force in 1952 and an even greater proportion in 1948, respectively 6 and 10 percentage points over 1946 (table 32).

In the population, 90 percent of all mothers are women whose husbands are present. Therefore, despite the tremendous differences in the participation rates of mothers by their marital status, those mothers whose husbands are present form four-fifths of all mothers in the labor force. And we must assume that, for many of these women economic reasons force them - as well as the widowed, divorced, and separated women - to accept the tremendous responsibilities of home, children, and outside job (table 31).

CHART XVIII

MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN WORKERS & PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF CHILDREN – 1952 & 1940



SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 29. Women in the Labor Force, by Marital Status and Presence or Absence of Children: 1940, and 1948-1952 1/

(In thousands)

Marital status and age of own children	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1940
Women, 14 years and over	18,812	18,602	17,795	17,167	17,155	13,840
Women ever married	13,280	13,172	12,174	11,485	11,212	7,130
With no own children under 18	7,984	7,910	7,549	7,152	2/ 7,042	5,630
With own children under 18	5,296	5,262	4,626	4,333	4,165	1,500
Under 6 years 3/	2,054	2,040	1,701	1,623	2/ 1,559	4/
6 to 17 years only	3,242	3,222	2,925	2,710	2/ 2,606	4/
Single women	5,532	5,430	5,621	5,682	5,943	6,710

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940 (last week in March), and 1950 (first week in March).

2/ Estimated; therefore, aggregates do not add to total.

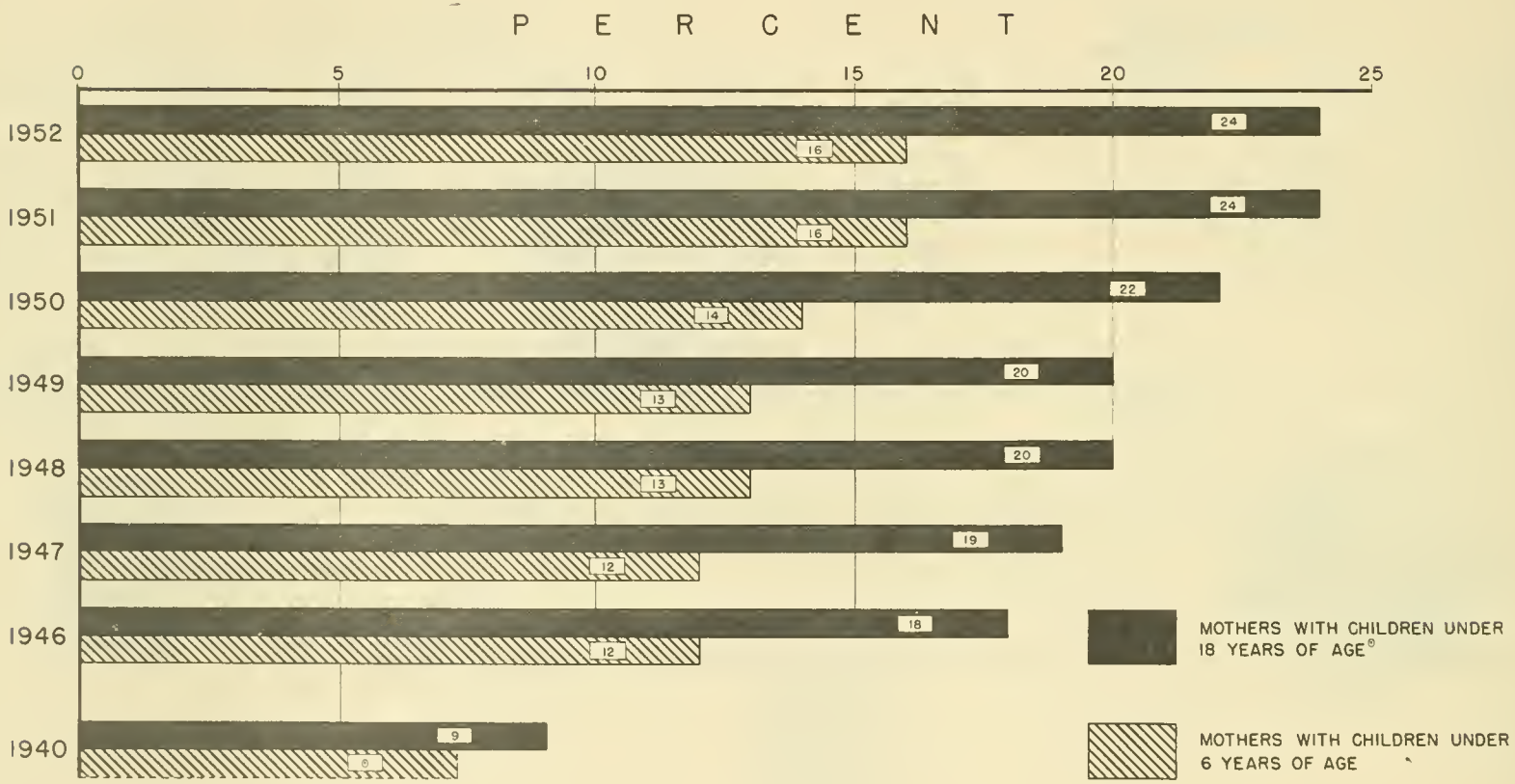
3/ Includes some women who also have children between 6 and 17 years of age.

4/ Not available.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

CHART XIX

PROPORTION OF ALL MOTHERS WHO WORKED
1940, 1946 TO 1952



[1] INCLUDES MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 AND 6 TO 17 YEARS OF AGE
[2] NOT AVAILABLE

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 30. Labor Force Participation Rates of Women, by Marital Status and Presence or Absence of Children: 1940, and 1948-1952 1/

Marital status and age of own children	Percent of women in the population who were in the labor force					
	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1940
Women, 14 years and over	32.4	32.4	31.4	30.7	31.0	27.4
Women ever married	28.3	28.4	26.8	23.6	25.6	19.5
With no own children under 18	32.4	32.6	31.4	30.4	30.5	2/
With own children under 18	23.8	23.8	21.6	20.3	20.2	2/
Under 6 years 3/	15.7	15.8	13.6	13.0	12.8	2/
6 to 17 years only	35.1	34.8	32.8	30.7	30.7	2/
Single women	50.0	49.6	50.5	50.9	51.1	48.1

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940 (last week in March), and 1950 (first week in March).

2/ Not available.

3/ Includes some women who also have children between 6 and 17 years of age.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 31. Marital Status of Mothers with Children Under 18 Years of Age, in the Population and the Labor Force: 1940, and 1946-1952 1/

(In thousands)

Year	Mothers with children under 18 years of age								
	Total			Married, husband present			Widowed, separated, divorced		
		Labor force			Labor force			Labor force	
	Civilian population	Number	Percent of population	Civilian population	Number	Percent of population	Civilian population	Number	Percent of population
1952 - - - - -	22,286	5,296	23.8	20,170	4,180	20.7	2,116	1,116	52.7
1951 - - - - -	22,143	5,262	23.8	19,818	4,070	20.5	2,325	1,192	51.3
1950 - - - - -	21,459	4,626	21.6	19,597	3,604	18.4	1,862	1,022	54.9
1949 - - - - -	21,308	4,333	20.3	19,509	3,415	17.5	1,799	918	51.0
1948 - - - - -	20,617	4,165	20.2	18,818	3,151	16.7	1,799	1,014	56.4
1947 2/ - - - -	19,240	3,588	18.6	17,619	2,795	15.9	1,621	793	48.9
1946 2/ - - - -	19,140	3,490	18.2	17,010	2,580	15.2	2,130	910	42.7
1940 2/ - - - -	17,343	1,500	8.6	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1940 (last week in March), 1946 (February), and 1950 (first week in March).

2/ Data for 1940, 1946, and 1947 are for families (other than sub-families) with male head married, wife present and families with female head; these data are not exactly comparable with data for later years which relate to persons. (Persons include members of families and sub-families.) However, it is assumed that persons with children are more likely to be in families than are other persons in the population.

3/ Not available.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 32. Marital Status of Mothers with Children Under 6 Years of Age, in the Population and the Labor Force: 1946-1952 1/

(In thousands)

Year	Mothers with children under 6 years of age								
	Total			Married, husband present			Widowed, separated, divorced		
		Labor force			Labor force			Labor force	
	Civilian population	Number	Percent of population	Civilian population	Number	Percent of population	Civilian population	Number	Percent of population
1952 - - - -	13,062	2,054	15.7	12,162	1,688	13.9	900	366	40.7
1951 - - - -	12,884	2,040	15.8	11,890	1,670	14.0	994	370	37.2
1950 ---- - -	12,529	1,701	13.6	11,799	1,399	11.9	730	302	41.4
1949 - - - -	12,492	1,623	13.0	11,718	1,285	11.0	774	338	43.7
1948 - - - -	12,142	1,559	12.8	11,399	1,222	10.7	743	337	45.4
1947 2/ - - -	10,918	1,312	12.0	10,314	1,067	10.3	604	245	40.6
1946 2/ - - -	10,500	1,240	11.8	9,490	890	9.4	1,010	350	34.7

1/ Statistics are for April of each year except 1946 (February), and 1950 (March).

2/ Data for 1946 and 1947 are for families (other than sub-families) with male head, married, wife present, and families with female head. These data are not exactly comparable with data for later years which relate to persons. (Persons include members of families and sub-families.)

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

IX. PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Persons classified as part-time workers are those who ordinarily work at jobs for less than 35 hours per week. During 1951, about 10½ million persons worked on a part-time basis. This group represented 15 percent of the 70 million persons who worked at some time during 1951 (table 33).

Part-time employment is more common among women than among men: One-fourth of the 24.6 million women who worked at some time during 1951 had part-time jobs, whereas less than a tenth of the 45.4 million men who worked during the year were on a short schedule (table 33).

Occupations Employing Part-Time Workers During 1951

Farm laborers and private household workers are the two occupation groups with the largest complement of part-time workers. Among women farm laborers almost two-thirds, and among men farm laborers about one-third were employed for less than 35 hours a week. Many of the farm laborers working on a part-time basis are unpaid family members who work as needed during busy periods on the family farms. (Unpaid family workers are considered as part of the labor force if they work as much as 15 hours a week on a family-operated farm or business.) Women on farms, of course, have much less opportunity for continuous full-time employment than do the women in urban communities (table 33).

Private household work is predominantly a woman's job; 98 percent of the part-time workers in this occupation are women. These workers often work by the hour or by the day in private homes; and during 1951, about 60 percent - or 3 out of every 5 household workers - were employed on a part-time basis, i.e., for less than 35 hours a week (table 33).

Sales work is another occupational group in which large proportions of part-time workers are found, particularly among women. Almost 40 percent of the women salespersons - though only 17 percent of the men so employed - were part-time workers during 1951. As with the retail trade industries which employ part-time sales women in large proportions, the service industries such as restaurants, beauty shops, etc., often find it advantageous to employ help on a part-time basis. Twenty-five percent of all women service workers other than in private households were working for less than 35 hours a week during 1951 (table 33).

Among clerical workers and operatives, the two largest woman-employing occupation groups, accounting for the employment of almost 50 percent of all working women, the proportion of part-time workers was smaller - only about 12 percent in each group - during 1951 (table 33).

Age of Part-Time Workers During 1951

Among women part-time workers, almost 60 percent were between the ages of 25 and 54 years. Among men part-time workers, on the other hand, only 20 percent were found in these ages during 1951. Young boys, between the ages of 14 and 17 years, and older men, 55 years and over, formed the bulk of the male part-time labor force.

Among both young women and men of 14 to 17 years, almost two-thirds of all persons who worked at some time during 1951 were employed on a part-time basis. A high percentage of girls and boys of this age group are enrolled in school, which accounts for the prevalence of part-time work among them (table 34).

Again, in the 18-to-24-year age group, the proportion of young women who worked part time was about the same as the proportion of young men - 15 percent among women and 12 percent among men. This is the age group of greatest full-time labor force participation among women (table 34).

For women in the age groups 25 to 64 years, however, the proportion of women part-time workers reflects the fact that many women have child-rearing or homemaking responsibilities and, therefore, often cannot accept full-time jobs. Most of the men of these ages, on the other hand, work at full-time, year-round jobs.

In the older age groups, 65 years and over, the proportion of women workers in part-time jobs is again much higher than the proportion of men workers in such jobs. Job opportunities for both men and women in these ages are, of course, limited. In addition, among women, many have had no previous or recent work experience which would qualify them for full-time jobs; among men, past the traditional retirement age of 65 years, also, opportunities for full-time employment are limited (table 34).

Work Patterns by Marital Status During 1950

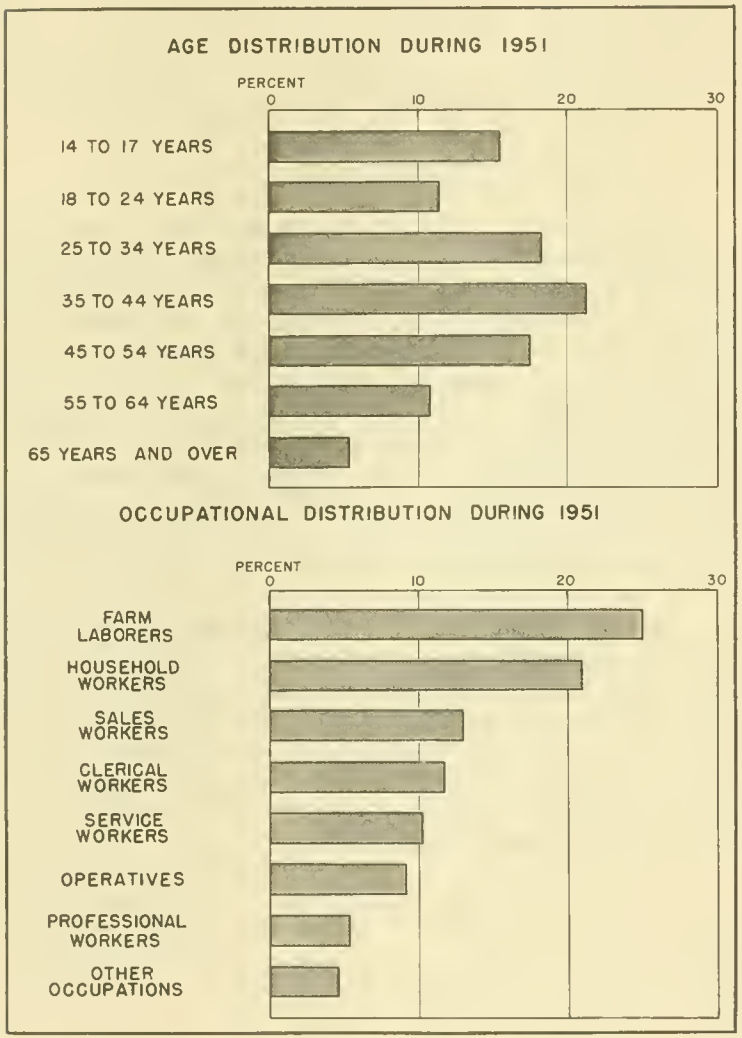
Not marriage per se, but presence or absence of young children in the home, is the key factor in determining not only whether a woman works full or part time, but also - among full-time workers - whether she works throughout the year or on an intermittent basis. Among married women with no children under 18 years, and among widowed, divorced, and separated women, and single women, about a fourth of those who worked were on a part-time basis during 1950. (Comparable data for 1951 are not available.) Among women with children, however, almost two-fifths worked on a part-time basis (table 35).

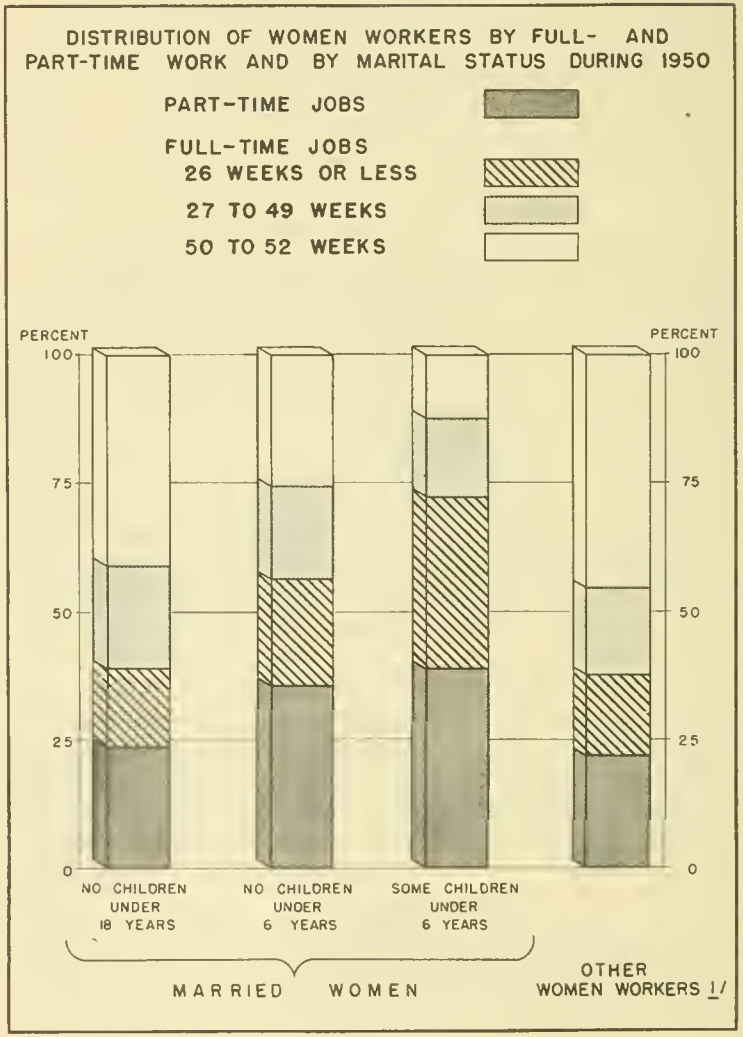
Three-fourths of all married women workers without children, as well as of the widowed, divorced, and separated women, and the single women who were employed, worked at full-time jobs during 1950. Furthermore, more than half of the women in these marital groups worked for at least half a year; and at least two-fifths of them were full-time, year-round workers (table 35).

Among women with children, on the other hand, only about two-fifths of those with children between 6 and 17 years, and only a fourth of those with children under 6 years worked at full-time jobs for a half year or more (table 35).

CHART XX

CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN PART-TIME WORKERS





SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

1/ INCLUDES SINGLE, WIDOWED, SEPARATED AND DIVORCED.

Table 33. Full-Time and Part-Time Status of Women and Men Who Worked During 1951, by Major Occupational Group

Major occupational group	Women workers			Men workers		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time
All occupations (in thousands)	24,598	18,206	6,392	45,364	41,338	4,026
	Percent distribution					
Total	100.0	74.0	26.0	100.0	91.1	8.9
Professional, technical and kindred workers	100.0	85.6	14.4	100.0	94.6	5.4
Farmers and farm managers	100.0	62.7	37.3	100.0	92.9	7.1
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm	100.0	87.1	12.9	100.0	97.3	2.7
Clerical and kindred workers	100.0	88.1	11.9	100.0	94.8	5.2
Sales workers	100.0	61.6	38.4	100.0	83.3	16.7
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	100.0	93.6	6.4	100.0	95.4	4.6
Operatives and kindred workers	100.0	87.1	12.9	100.0	93.9	6.1
Private household workers	100.0	41.5	58.5	100.0	50.0	50.0
Service workers, except private household	100.0	75.5	24.5	100.0	85.7	14.3
Farm laborers and foremen	100.0	35.9	64.1	100.0	65.3	34.7
Laborers, except farm and mine	100.0	78.9	21.1	100.0	84.4	15.6

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 34. Women and Men Who Worked Part-Time During 1951, by Age

Age	Percent distribution of part-time workers		Proportion part-time workers formed of all workers	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
All ages - - - - - -	100.0	100.0	26.0	8.9
14 to 17 years - - - - -	15.5	38.5	65.7	64.5
18 to 24 years - - - - -	11.4	14.8	15.3	11.6
25 to 34 years - - - - -	18.3	7.9	21.2	3.0
35 to 44 years - - - - -	21.3	5.4	25.2	2.2
45 to 54 years - - - - -	17.5	7.0	26.2	3.4
55 to 64 years - - - - -	10.8	10.6	28.6	7.0
65 years and over - - - -	5.3	15.8	45.0	22.2

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 35. Full-Time and Part-Time Status of Women Who Worked During 1950, by Marital Status and Presence or Absence of Children

(Percent distribution)

Work experience during 1950	All women	Married					Other		
		Total	No children under 18 years	With children under 18 years			Total	Widowed, divorced, separated	Single
				Total	None under 6 years	Some under 6 years			
Women who worked during 1950	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
At full-time jobs - - - -	73.4	69.5	76.1	62.7	64.0	61.1	77.9	77.7	78.0
13 weeks or less - - -	8.9	10.3	6.5	14.1	9.4	19.0	7.4	5.9	8.4
14 to 26 weeks - - - -	9.8	10.8	9.1	13.2	11.4	14.7	8.5	8.1	8.8
27 to 49 weeks - - - -	17.9	18.6	20.1	16.8	18.1	15.3	17.3	19.4	15.6
50 to 52 weeks - - - -	36.8	29.9	40.3	19.0	25.3	12.3	44.9	44.3	45.2
At part-time jobs - - -	26.6	30.5	23.9	37.3	35.7	38.9	22.1	22.5	22.0

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

X. INCOME

Even though there are more job opportunities for women and more women are working today than before World War II, women's income from their jobs has increased less than has men's income, since 1939. In 1951, the median income of working women was only about two-fifths that of men, whereas in 1939 it was nearly three-fifths of men's.

From these facts on income it appears that the large numbers of women who have entered the labor force throughout the past decade have found employment in those lower-paying jobs which were always open to women or in those which were vacated by men who moved into the higher-paying jobs created by war and defense conditions. Furthermore, women apparently have remained in these lower-paying jobs; consequently men's income from wages and salaries has increased at a greater rate than women's.

Wages and Salaries

Between 1939 and 1951 the median wage and salary income of women, like that of men, showed a significant increase - from $555 per year to $1,361 per year. In other words, women's income increased almost 1½ times. However, during this time men's income increased slightly more than 2 times, thereby widening the traditional gap between women's and men's wage and salary income. Whereas women's income amounted to 59 percent of men's in 1939, it amounted to only 44 percent of men's in 1951 (table 36).

It is interesting to note that war and defense conditions did not result in any increase in women's income in relation to men's. As a matter of fact, there was a substantial decrease in women's income relative to men's between the prewar year of 1939 and the postwar year of 1945. This was followed by a small increase in women's relative earnings in 1947; and again, gradual decreases each year from 1948 through 1951. These developments suggest that war and defense periods drew many younger men from lower-paying jobs into military service, and provided men in civilian employment with significantly better job opportunities than women. Furthermore, men were successful in keeping these jobs (table 36).

The proportion of women with wage or salary incomes whose incomes from this source were under $2,000 decreased by 30 percentage points between 1939 and 1951; nevertheless,

67 percent of all women wage or salary workers in 1951 still had incomes below that amount. By contrast, only 27 percent of all men wage or salary workers had incomes under $2,000. Whereas women in the $5,000 and over group formed less than one-half of 1 percent of all women wage and salary workers in 1939 and 1951, men in this group increased by 11 percentage points between these years, and had become 12 percent of all men wage and salary workers by 1951 (table 36).

The widening of the gap in wage and salary incomes of women and men is further evidenced by comparative income data for six occupational groups. In all of these occupational groups except two - professional and technical workers and managers, officials, and proprietors - increases in men's earned incomes between 1939 and 1951 exceeded those in women's. This is particularly important in view of the fact that the two groups excepted employ only about 15 percent of all women workers. Proportionately speaking, therefore, the important woman-employing occupational groups are providing greater increases in wages to men than to women (table 37).

These facts are undoubtedly significant in considering the persistent labor shortages in occupations frequently filled by women. For example, although women have continued to dominate the clerical field, there is still a shortage of such workers; yet, at the same time, men's incomes in these occupations are increasing more rapidly than women's.

In none of the six occupational groups in 1951 did women's income amount to as much as two-thirds of men's; and in the sales worker group, women's income was only one-third of men's (table 37).

Husband-Wife Income

As might be expected, families in which both husband and wife work have higher incomes than those in which only the husband works. In 1952, only a fifth of the families with the wife in the labor force as compared to a third of those with the wife not in the labor force had total money incomes under $3,000 dollars for the previous year. Almost half of the families with husband and wife working, but only a fourth of those with the wife not working, had incomes above $5,000. Total money income includes income from self-employment, interest, rents, annuities, etc., in addition to wage and salary income (table 38).

Both the extent to which wives participate in the labor force and the level of wives' incomes when they do work are directly related to the husbands' incomes. The percent of wives in the labor force decreases markedly in accordance with the husbands' incomes. Whereas about one-third of the wives were working in families in which the husbands' incomes were between $1,000 and $3,000, only about one-seventh of the wives were working when their husbands' incomes were $6,000 or more. Furthermore, 1951 data show that the median income of working wives of husbands with incomes of $4,000 or more was close to $2,000, while incomes of wives whose husbands earned less than $2,000 a year was only about $1,000 (table 40).

Among the reasons for these relationships may be the fact that husbands and wives tend to have similar backgrounds, education, experience, and work qualifications; furthermore, wives of higher-income men may be reluctant to accept low-paying jobs, since their need for additional income is less pressing than in low-income families.

In 1951, median income in the United States was lowest for families with a female head, and highest for families having a male head with wife in the labor force. However, even when the wife was not in the labor force, families headed by a man had substantially higher median incomes than families headed by a woman, with a difference of more than $1,400 per year (table 39).

The significance of this discrepancy in family income becomes apparent when one considers that there are more than 4 million families, 1 out of every 10, in the United States with a woman head. Three-fourths of these families are located in urban areas, where the difference in family incomes is even more marked than in the country as a whole: In urban areas, where almost 1 out of every 8 families has a woman head, the median income of male-headed families with the wife in the labor force is almost twice that of families with a female head. Even where the wife is not in the labor force, the income of urban families with a male head exceeds that of families with a female head by 60 percent, or $1,500 (table 39). Clearly then, low incomes of women, relative to men, affect not only the women themselves, but also the large number of families for which these women hold sole or primary responsibility.

Residence

In urban areas, women's total money income - including money from wages, salary, self-employment, rents, interest, etc. - averaged about two-fifths of that of men in 1951. In rural areas, women's total money income averaged less than a third of men's (table 41). In rural areas, of course, about two-thirds of the woman labor force is composed of unpaid family workers, many of whom work only during the planting or harvesting seasons on the family farms. (See ch. II, Industry and Class of Worker.)

The proportion of unpaid family workers among the woman labor force in farm areas is considerably greater than the proportion of these workers among the male labor force in these areas. These differences account, in part, for the fact that the total money income of women in rural-farm areas averaged only 35 percent of the money income of women in urban areas in 1951, whereas men in rural areas had a median money income of nearly half (46 percent) that of men in urban areas. However, for both women and men in rural areas total money income excludes payments in kind, and urban-rural comparisons must be evaluated with this in mind.

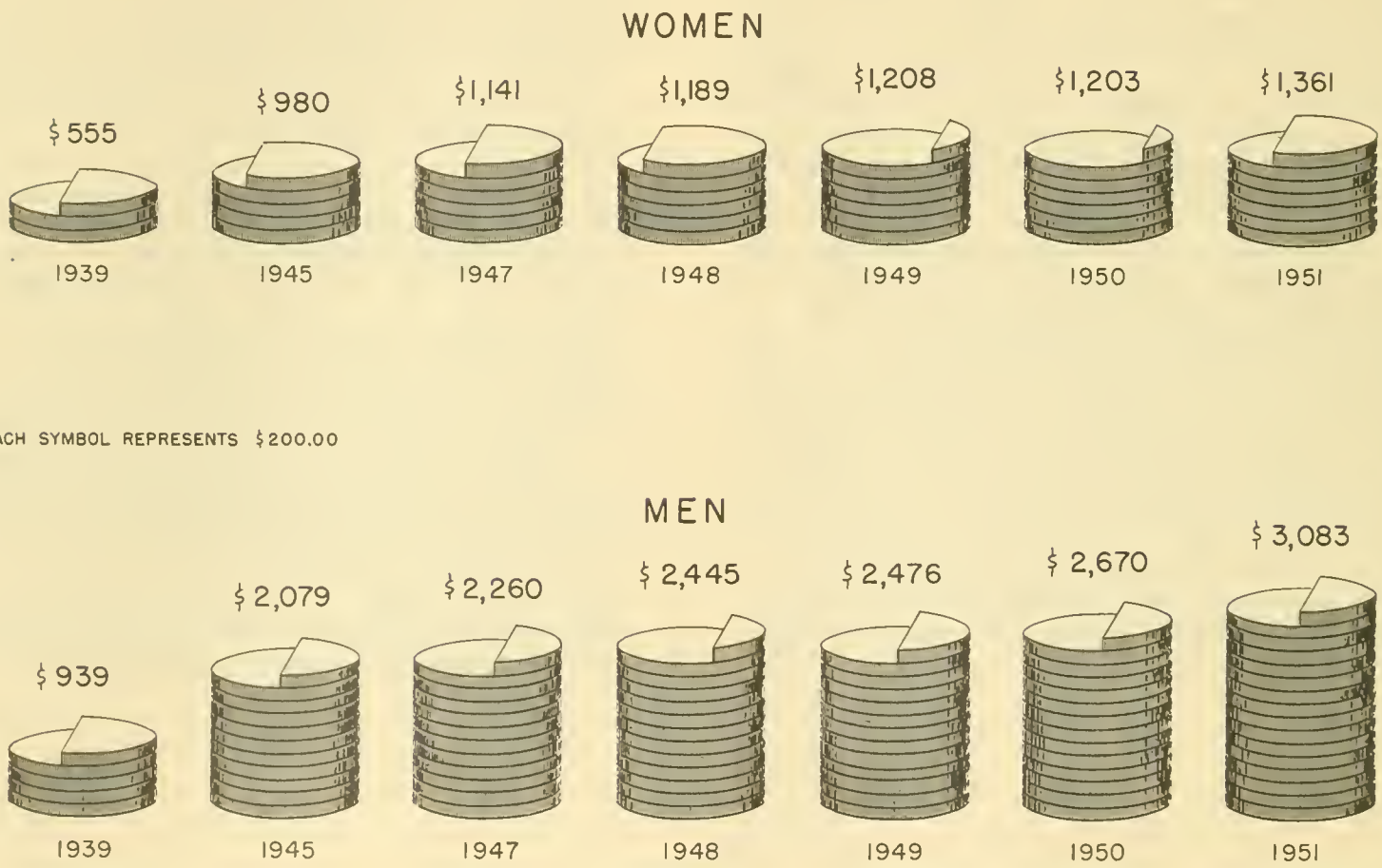
Age

Almost twice as many men as women had some money income in 1951. Among persons 14 years of age and over, slightly more than 4 out of every 10 women as compared with 9 out of every 10 men had some money income that year. For both men and women, the median income figure was lowest for the 14 to 20 year old group. For both, incomes increased after 20 years of age; however, women's median income began to diminish at 35 years while men's did not begin to decrease until 45 years of age. These data reflect the fact that many women 35 years and over have family responsibilities and so are not in the labor force, and, also, that men - by comparison with the women who are working - are more likely to work in fields which permit them greater opportunities for advancement as they acquire seniority and experience (table 42).

Whereas men's and women's median income was about the same in the 14 to 20 year group, men's income increasingly exceeded women's in the upper age groups, ranging from about 1½ times as large as women's at 20 to 25 years to 3 times women's at 55 to 65 years. At 65 years and over, however, men's median income dropped to only twice that of women's (table 42).

CHART XXI

MEDIAN WAGE OR SALARY INCOME: 1939 to 1951



U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 36. Wage or Salary Income of Workers, by Sex: 1939, 1945, 1947, 1948-1951

Wage or salary income	Women							Men						
	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1945	1939	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1945	1939
Median income - -	$1,361	$1,203	$1,208	$1,189	$1,141	$980	$555	$3,083	$2,670	$2,476	$2,445	$2,260	$2,079	$939
	Percent distribution													
Persons with wage or salary income - - -	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $1,000 - - - - -	41.9	45.4	44.4	44.1	45.5	50.8	79.0	14.1	18.3	19.6	18.9	19.3	26.0	52.8
$1,000, under $2,000 -	25.3	26.2	29.6	31.3	35.1	37.6	18.1	12.5	15.3	18.1	18.1	22.2	21.6	33.4
$2,000, under $3,000 -	22.6	22.0	20.3	20.1	15.7	9.8	2.1	21.0	24.3	26.2	27.5	28.8	28.1	9.4
$3,000, under $5,000 -	9.7	6.2	5.6	4.2	3.1	1.5	0.6	39.9	34.0	30.0	29.6	25.0	19.5	3.1
$5,000 and over - - -	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	12.4	8.3	6.1	6.1	4.8	4.9	1.4

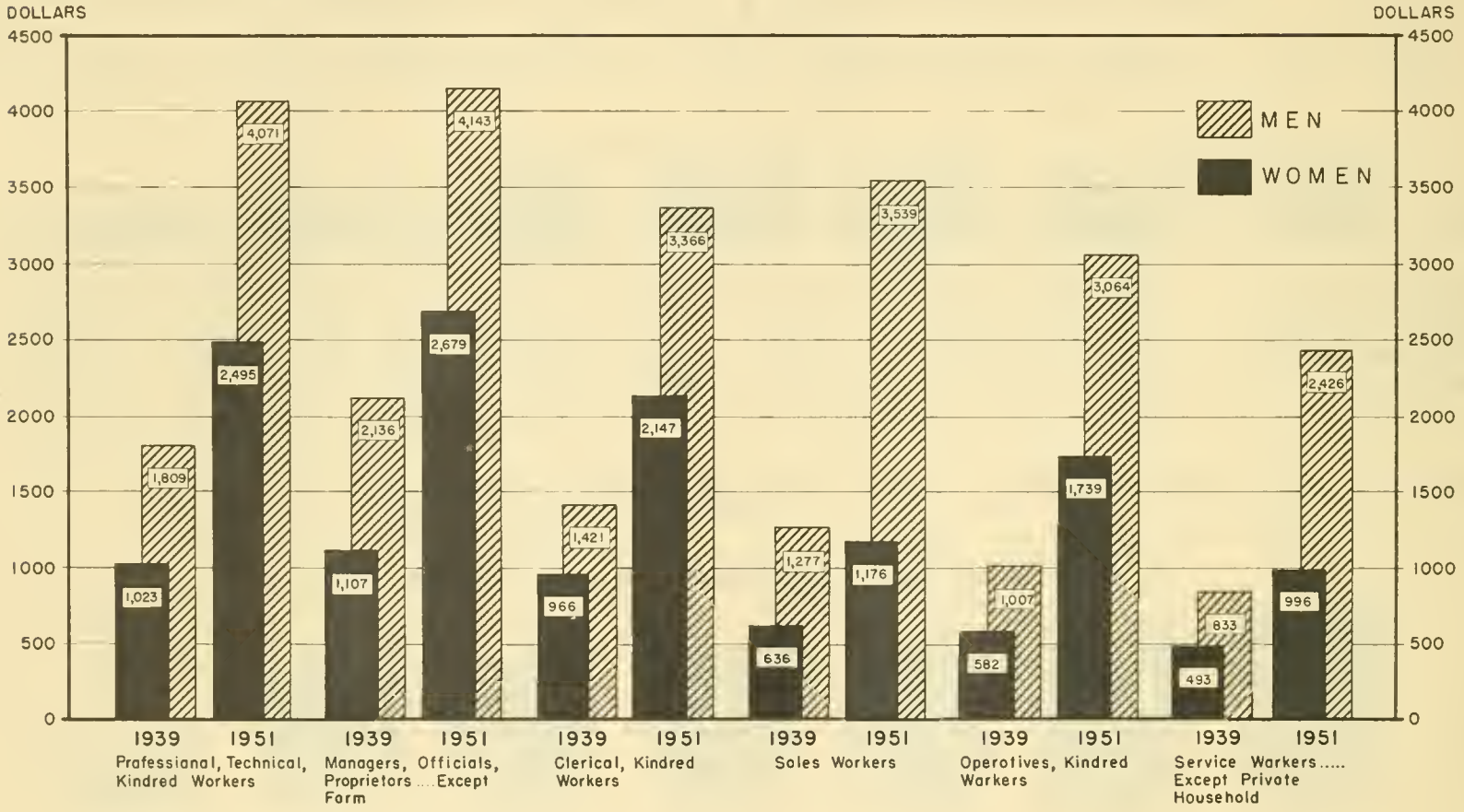
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Percent Women's Median Income was of Men's Median Income

1939	1945	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
59.1	47.1	50.5	48.6	48.8	45.1	44.1

CHART XXII

COMPARISON OF 1939 AND 1951 MEDIAN WAGE OR SALARY INCOMES FOR SELECTED OCCUPATIONS*



*FOR EXPERIENCED WORKERS IN LABOR FORCE

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 37. Median Wage or Salary Income of Experienced Women and Men in the Labor Force, in Selected Major Occupation Groups: 1939 and 1951

Major occupation group	1951			1939 1/			Percent change 1939-1951	
	Women	Men	Percent women's earned income of men's	Women	Men	Percent women's earned income of men's	Women	Men
Professional, technical and kindred workers	$2,495	$4,071	61.3	$1,023	$1,809	56.6	/143.9	/125.0
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm	2,679	4,143	64.7	1,107	2,136	51.8	/142.0	/94.0
Clerical and kindred workers	2,147	3,366	63.8	966	1,421	68.0	/122.3	/136.9
Sales workers	1,176	3,539	33.2	636	1,277	49.8	/84.9	/177.1
Operatives and kindred workers	1,739	3,064	56.8	582	1,007	57.8	/198.8	/204.3
Service workers, except private household	996	2,426	41.1	493	833	59.2	/102.0	/191.2

1/ Includes only the workers with $100 or more of wage or salary income.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 38. Distribution of Families With Money Income, [1/] and Labor Force Status of Wife: 1951 and 1952

(Percent distribution)

Family income [1/]	1952		1951	
	Wife in the labor force	Wife not in the labor force	Wife in the labor force	Wife not in the labor force
Husband-wife families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $1,000	3.8	8.0	5.4	10.5
$1,000, under $2,000	6.8	11.4	9.9	12.9
$2,000, under $3,000	11.0	16.8	14.2	18.7
$3,000, under $4,000	16.3	21.8	20.4	22.1
$4,000, under $5,000	18.3	15.7	17.1	13.7
$5,000, under $6,000	16.1	10.2	14.3	8.2
$6,000, under $7,000	10.7	5.9	9.1	4.5
$7,000, under $10,000	13.0	6.3	7.4	5.5
$10,000 and over	4.1	3.8	2.2	3.9
Median income	$4,631	$3,634	$4,003	$3,315

1/ Income data are for previous years.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 39. Male and Female Heads of Families in 1952, and Family Median Income 1/

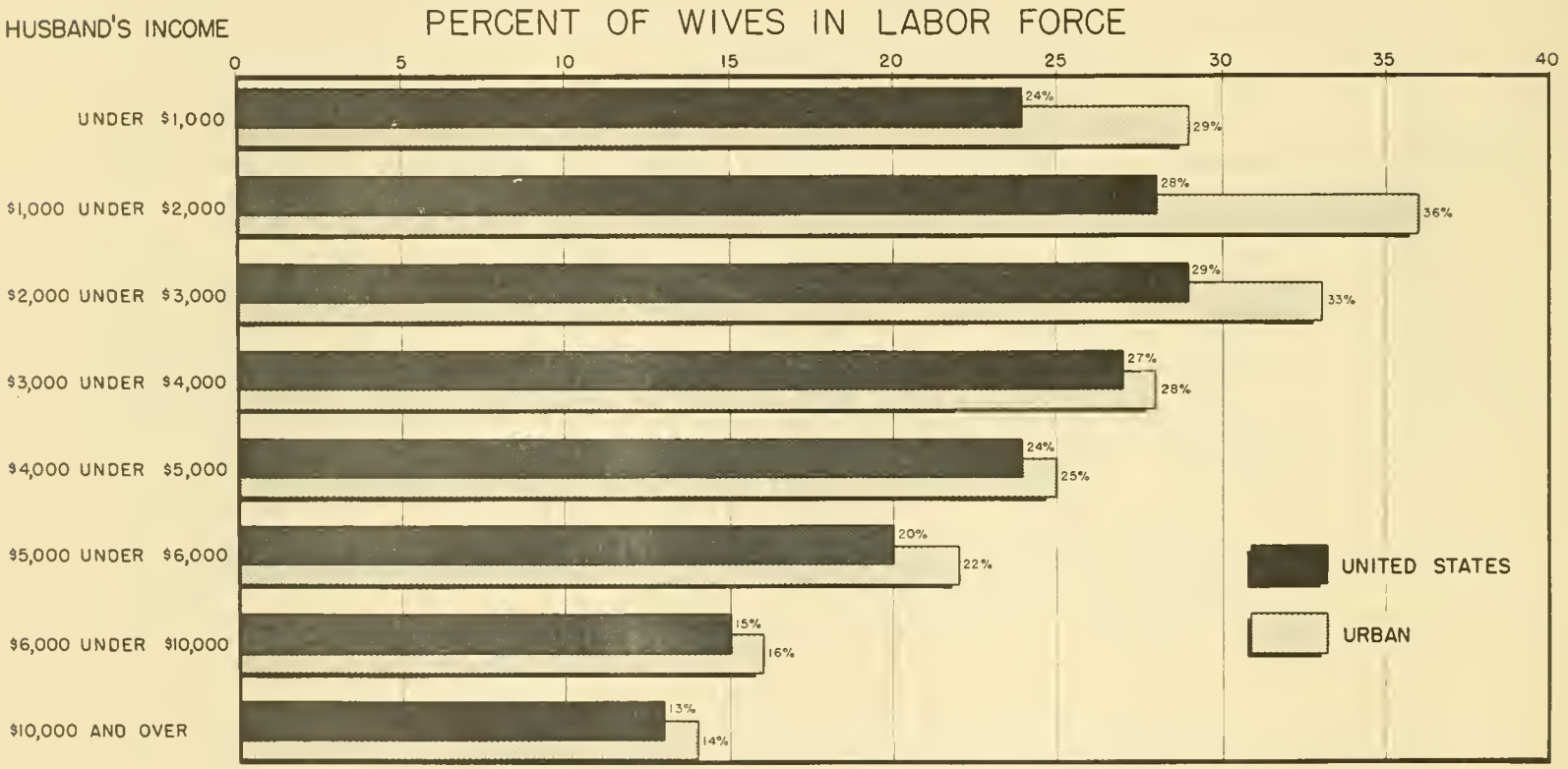
Type of family	United States			Urban		
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Median income 1/	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Median income 1/
Total families - -	40.442	100.0	$3,709	26,918	100.0	$4,071
Male head - - - - - - -	36,412	90.0	$3,829	23,808	88.4	$4,216
Married, wife present	35,196	87.0	3,837	23,090	85.8	4,217
Wife in labor force - - - - - -	8,044	19.9	4,631	6,088	22.6	4,883
Wife not in the labor force - - -	27,152	67.1	3,634	17,002	63.2	4,028
Other marital status	1,216	3.0	3,452	718	2.7	4,191
Female head - - - - - -	4,030	10.0	2,220	3,110	11.6	2,493

1/ Income data are for previous year.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

CHART XXIII

PROPORTION OF WIVES IN THE LABOR FORCE IN 1952 . . . IN RELATION TO HUSBAND'S INCOME*



*INCOME FOR 1951

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 40. Proportion of Wives in the Labor Force in 1951 and 1952, in Relation to Husband's Income 1/

Income of husband 1/	Percent of wives in labor force				Median income of wife in 1950
	1952		1951		
	United States	Urban	United States	Urban	
Under $1,000 - - - - - -	24	29	28	34	$908
$1,000, under $2,000 - -	28	36	29	34	1,094
$2,000, under $3,000 - -	29	33	28	32	1,548
$3,000, under $4,000 - -	27	28	27	28	1,718
$4,000, under $5,000 - -	24	25	21	21	
$5,000, under $6,000 - -	20	22	16	17	1,954
$6,000, under $10,000 -	15	16	11	11	
$10,000 and over - - - -	13	14	12	11	

1/ Income data relate to previous years.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 41. Total Money Income of Women and Men, by Residence: 1948-1952

Residence and year	Women with income			Men with income		
	Number (in thousands)	Percent of population	Median income for previous year	Number (in thousands)	Percent of population	Median income for previous year
Urban						
1952	18,708	47.6	$1,267	31,504	91.1	$3,234
1951	17,790	47.1	1,178	30,787	91.4	2,894
1950	17,227	45.9	1,167	31,263	91.3	2,684
1949	15,569	44.7	1,236	28,762	91.1	2,679
1948	15,082	43.8	1,193	28,163	90.1	2,431
Rural-nonfarm						
1952	4,349	40.9	781	8,910	89.4	2,725
1951	4,501	38.9	706	9,648	90.2	2,454
1950	4,089	37.9	681	9,586	89.4	2,190
1949	4,400	38.2	803	10,016	90.6	2,324
1948	3,832	33.3	794	10,119	89.5	2,191
Rural-farm						
1952	2,122	27.7	440	7,083	86.4	1,486
1951	2,360	31.0	417	7,150	87.0	1,328
1950	2,194	28.0	392	7,409	87.3	1,054
1949	2,756	29.7	467	8,592	85.5	1,385
1948	2,565	28.4	483	8,531	86.3	1,360

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 42. Median Income of Women and Men, by Age Groups: 1952

Age	With annual money income			Percent distribution of-	
	Number (in thousands)	Percent of all in population	Median income 1/	Population	Persons with income
Women, 14 years and over	25,179	43.7	$1,045	100.0	100.0
14 to 19 years	2,124	33.6	411	11.0	8.4
20 to 24 years	3,101	55.1	1,397	10.0	12.3
25 to 34 years	5,075	41.6	1,623	21.2	20.2
35 to 44 years	4,661	42.6	1,538	19.0	18.5
45 to 54 years	4,008	44.4	1,327	15.7	15.9
55 to 64 years	2,686	38.0	968	12.3	10.7
65 years and over	3,524	55.1	536	11.1	14.0
Men, 14 years and over	47,497	90.1	$2,952	100.0	100.0
14 to 19 years	2,554	42.2	434	11.5	5.4
20 to 24 years	3,774	90.7	2,259	7.9	7.9
25 to 34 years	11,032	98.8	3,288	21.2	23.2
35 to 44 years	10,159	98.8	3,617	19.5	21.4
45 to 54 years	8,502	98.2	3,280	16.4	17.9
55 to 64 years	6,473	95.4	2,840	12.9	13.6
65 years and over	5,003	88.9	1,008	10.7	10.5

1/ Median income for previous year.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Expansion of the Nation's Labor Force

In April 1953, there were about 39½ million women 14 years and over who were not in the labor force. At the same date, there were 9 million men who were not working. The women, therefore, constituted the largest single source for increasing the Nation's work force in the event of expanded labor needs (table 43).

However, about 4 percent of the women not in the labor force were unable to work because of disability, advanced age, or other reasons, and another 10 percent were in school. More than 80 percent of those in school were between the ages of 14 and 17 and, therefore, would normally be encouraged to complete their education before entering the labor force. Eliminating the young women who were in school and those unable to work, there remain some 35 million non-working women who would be available as a possible source of additional workers, and the vast majority of these are classed as "keeping house" (table 43).

Many of these women who are "keeping house," however, are 65 years of age and over; and others are mothers who must care for their children. It is, therefore, not reasonable to assume that all of the 34 million women in this group could be brought into the labor force, if necessary. Rather, this number represents about the entire pool of women not now in the labor force from which additional workers might be made available to an expanded economy.

A more practical estimate of the supply of women actually available would not include mothers responsible for the care of children or elderly women. This leaves a primary labor reserve of about 11 million

women between the ages of 18 and 64, having excluded the women 65 years and over and an estimated 17 million mothers. Thus, it is estimated that approximately 28 percent of all the women 14 years and over who were not working in 1953 would have been available for labor force expansion, if necessary (table 43).

Previous Work Experience

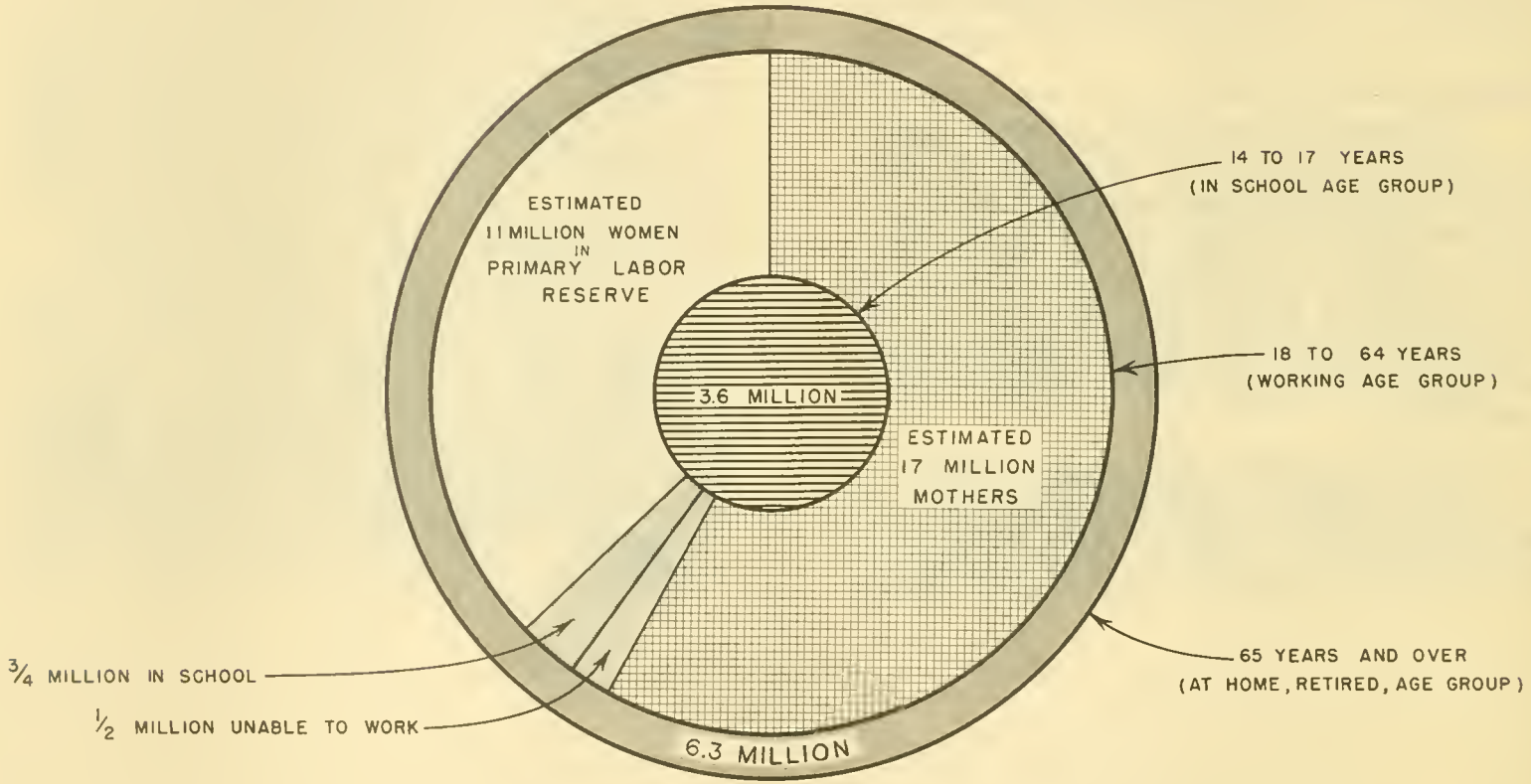
In considering the utilization of women in the labor reserve, it is important to take account of their previous work experience, particularly if such work experience was recent. A March 1951 Bureau of the Census survey of the labor reserve revealed that almost 1 out of every 3 of the women who were not then in the labor force had had some previous work experience during or after World War II (table 45).

For a majority of these women - almost 7 million - their previous work experience was fairly current, that is, since 1945. Some 4 million out of the total 11 million women had work experience during World War II, and also many of those with current work experience had worked during the war period (table 45).

Slightly more than 6 thousand of the women with previous work experience were in the age group 20 to 34 years, while the remainder were about evenly divided between the age groups 35 to 44 and 45 to 64. Furthermore, the 20 to 34 year age group included almost 4 times as many women with current work experience and twice as many women with experience prior to 1945 as either of the other two groups. Obviously, therefore, it was women between the ages of 20 and 34 years who made up the bulk of the experienced labor reserve and, particularly, the currently experienced reserve. However, it should be remembered that it is this age group, also, which is most likely to be responsible for the care of young children; and if their services are needed in the Nation's labor force, account will have to be taken of the threefold responsibility - for home, children, and job - which these women would be assuming.

CHART XXIV

STATUS OF WOMEN NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE
APRIL 1953



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 43. Status of Women Not in the Labor Force, by Age: April 1953

(In thousands)

Age	Total		Keeping house		In school		Unable to work		Other	
	Number	Percent of women population 1/	Number	Percent of woman population	Number	Percent of woman population	Number	Percent of woman population	Number	Percent of woman population
Women, 14 years and over:										
NUMBER	39,456	67.6	34,008	58.3	3,910	6.7	860	1.5	678	1.2
PERCENT	100.0	-	86.2	-	9.9	-	2.2	-	1.7	-
14 and 15 years	2,024	92.0	78	3.5	1,904	86.5	2	0.1	40	1.8
16 and 17 years	1,580	74.7	282	13.3	1,252	59.2	-	-	46	2.2
18 and 19 years	1,074	51.9	570	27.6	486	23.5	14	0.7	4	0.2
20 to 24 years	3,068	55.7	2,796	50.8	236	4.3	12	0.2	24	0.4
25 to 34 years	8,052	65.8	7,900	64.5	26	0.2	48	0.4	78	0.6
35 to 44 years	6,788	60.3	6,694	59.5	2	2/	36	0.3	56	0.5
45 to 54 years	5,520	60.8	5,408	59.6	4	2/	56	0.6	52	0.6
55 to 64 years	5,028	71.9	4,854	69.4	-	-	86	1.2	88	1.3
65 years and over	6,322	91.5	5,426	78.6	-	-	606	8.8	290	4.2
	Percent distribution									
Total	100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0	
14 and 15 years	5.1		0.2		48.7		0.2		5.9	
16 and 17 years	4.0		0.8		32.0		-		6.8	
18 and 19 years	2.7		1.7		12.4		1.6		0.6	
20 to 24 years	7.8		8.2		6.0		1.4		3.5	
25 to 34 years	20.4		23.2		0.7		5.6		11.5	
35 to 44 years	17.2		19.7		0.1		4.2		8.3	
45 to 54 years	14.0		15.9		0.1		6.5		7.7	
55 to 64 years	12.7		14.3		-		10.0		13.0	
65 years and over	16.0		16.0		-		70.5		42.8	

1/ Civilian noninstitutional.
2/ Percent not shown where less than 0.05.
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 44. Age and Marital Status of Women Not in the Labor Force: 1940, 1944, and 1952 1/

Age	Total			Single women			Women ever married 2/		
	1952	1944	1940	1952	1944	1940	1952	1944	1940
	NUMBER (in thousands)								
Women, 14 years and over	39,222	35,670	36,709	5,536	5,690	7,226	33,686	29,980	29,483
14 to 19 years	4,612	4,830	5,881	3,946	4,230	5,258	666	600	623
20 to 24 years	3,212	2,850	3,075	404	330	651	2,808	2,520	2,424
25 to 34 years	8,014	7,040	6,998	220	260	330	7,794	6,780	6,668
35 to 44 years	6,646	6,270	6,488	184	200	191	6,462	6,070	6,298
45 years and over	16,738	14,680	14,266	782	670	796	15,956	14,010	13,470
45 to 64 years	10,742	3/	9,963	354	3/	437	10,388	3/	9,526
65 years and over	5,996	3/	4,303	428	3/	359	5,568	3/	3,944
	Percent distribution								
Women, 14 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 19 years	11.8	13.5	16.0	71.3	74.3	72.8	2.0	2.0	2.1
20 to 24 years	8.2	8.0	8.4	7.3	5.8	9.0	8.3	8.4	8.2
25 to 34 years	20.4	19.7	19.1	4.0	4.6	4.6	23.1	22.6	22.6
35 to 44 years	16.9	17.6	17.7	3.3	3.5	2.6	19.2	20.2	21.4
45 to 54 years	42.7	41.2	38.9	14.1	11.8	11.0	47.4	46.7	45.7
45 to 64 years	27.4	3/	27.1	6.4	3/	6.0	30.8	3/	32.3
65 years and over	15.3	3/	11.7	7.7	3/	5.0	16.5	3/	13.4

1/ Statistics are for March 1940, February 1944, and April 1952.

2/ In 1952, 81 percent and in 1940, 82 percent of these women were married women with husbands present. The remainder were widowed, divorced, or separated.

3/ Not available.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 45. Women With Work Experience During and After World War II, Who Were Not in the Labor Force in March 1951, by Age

(In thousands)

Age	With some work experience			
	Total	Percent of all women not in the labor force	After World War II 1/	During World War II
Women, 20 years and over - -	10,956	28.9	6,712	4,244
20 to 34 years - - - - - - - - -	6,190	56.7	4,058	2,132
35 to 44 years - - - - - - - - -	2,136	32.9	1,140	996
45 to 64 years - - - - - - - - -	2,084	20.0	1,190	894
65 years and over - - - - - - - -	546	9.8	324	222

1/ Three-fourths of these women also worked during World War II to 1945.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

XII. EDUCATION

Years of School Completed

Only about 2 percent both of women and of men 25 years and over in the population in 1950, compared with 4 percent in 1940, had had no schooling. In addition, about a fifth of the women and a fourth of the men 25 years and over in 1950, but a fourth of the women and three-tenths of the men in 1940 had less than an 8th grade education (table 46).

On the whole, women have had about half a year more of schooling than men in this country. For women, the median school years completed was 9.6 in 1950; for men, it was 9.0 years. The bulk of this difference is accounted for by the fact that two-fifths of the women, but only one-third of the men 25 years and over had some high-school education in 1950. But, on the other hand, a slightly higher proportion of men (14 percent) than of women (12½ percent) had completed some college training. As these data indicate, college-trained persons are still a small minority of the adult population: Only 2¼ million women and 3 million men 25 years and over had completed 4 or more years of college by 1950 (table 46).

Employment of School Enrollees

In 1951, there were about 4¼ million women and 4-3/4 million men between the ages of 14 and 24 years who were enrolled in school. Among the 14 to 17 year olds, the proportion of girls and boys in school was the same. In the college-age groups, however, the proportions of men in school were considerably higher than the proportions of women. Only 9 percent of all women 18 to 24 years old, but 19 percent

of all men of these ages, were in school in 1951 (table 47).

The implications of this pattern of school attendance for future employment prospects for men and women are numerous. Men, to a much greater extent than women, are clearly fitting themselves for jobs which require longer training and offer higher salaries. In this connection, two facts concerning women's employment should be kept in mind: In comparison to men, women have less choice of employment fields, and this situation tends to discourage women from spending long periods in acquiring the training necessary for higher-level jobs. Furthermore, in fields which require advanced training and are traditionally open to women - teaching, nursing, social work, etc. - average earnings are almost always substantially lower than those in professions where men predominate.

Data on employment of students further indicate that higher proportions of young men than of young women are employed while they are still in school. Only 30 percent of the young women 20 to 24 years, but almost 40 percent of the young men in these ages, who were in school in 1951, were simultaneously employed. This work experience acquired by men during their school years undoubtedly assists in qualifying them for additional training and employment opportunities when they have finally completed their schooling. (table 47).

College Degrees Earned by Women

In 1951-52, women earned about one-third of all college degrees conferred that year, or about double the proportion in 1890, the first year for which this information is available. The proportion which women have formed of all college graduates has fluctuated considerably in the past 60 years. From less than a fifth of all graduates in 1890 they had become a third of the total by 1920. During the depression of the 30's, about 2 out of 5 graduates were women. During World War II, of course, when vast numbers of young men were in the armed services, women were more than half of all college graduates. Following the war, their number increased, but their proportion dropped to about a fourth, as

many veterans availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain a college education (table 48).

Field of Study in College Training

In the school year 1951-52, women received college degrees in more than 60 different fields of study. However, the bulk of these degrees were concentrated in the field of education, which accounted for almost 40 percent of all college degrees earned by women. Quite obviously, a substantial number of college women - more than 45 thousand - were preparing themselves for teaching, an occupation in which women have predominated for many years. Apparently, job opportunities for women still are not broad enough to change materially the college-educated woman's choice of teaching as a career, any more than they have changed the less-than-college-educated woman's choice of clerical work (table 49).

Next to education, the most important fieldfor college women was English; but this accounted for only 7 percent of all women graduates. These, together with home economics (7 percent), business and commerce (5 percent), and nursing and music (each 4 percent), account for almost 65 percent of all college-trained women who graduated in 1951-52. Each of the remaining fields of study accounted for 3 percent or less of the 125,500 woman graduates. Thus, there is little diversification in the kinds of specialization which college-trained women undertake (table 49).

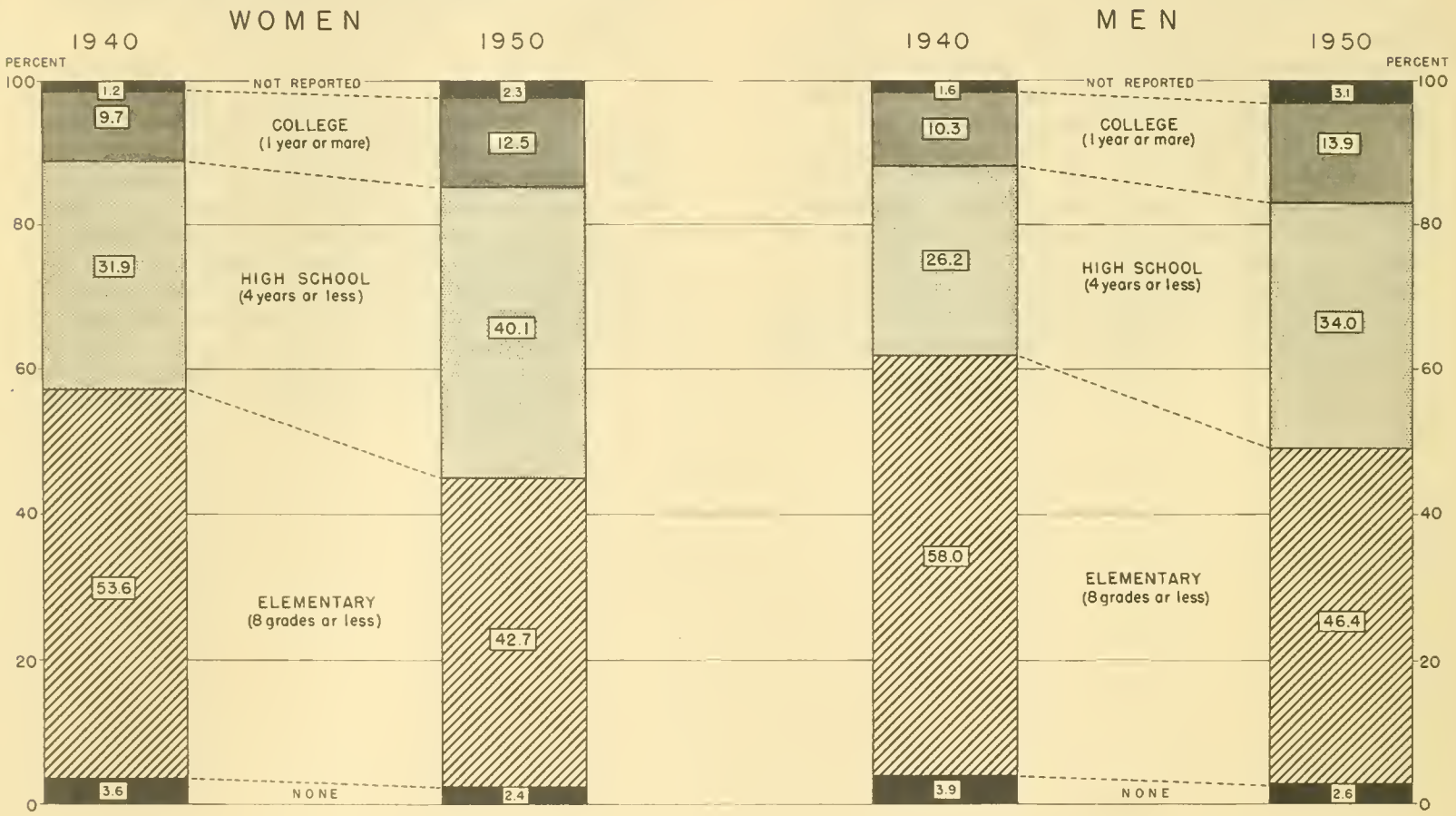
Men outnumbered women in all but 10 of the fields of study in which college degrees were conferred in 1951-52. At the top of the list of women's specialized fields were nursing and home economics in which 99 percent of the degrees were earned by women. Women also outnumbered men in the fields of library science, modern languages, education, social work, fine arts, English, sociology, and music - in other words, in liberal arts training primarily.

Women earned less than 10 percent of the degrees conferred that year in the following 20 fields of study: Agriculture, anatomy, animal husbandry, architecture, dentistry, engineering, entomology, forestry, geology, industrial arts, law, metallurgy, meteorology, military or naval science, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physical sciences, physics, and veterinary medicine. Interestingly enough, none of these fields fall in the general categories of liberal arts or social studies; almost all of them are specialized fields in the natural and physical sciences or in engineering.

From these facts it may be concluded that men, in acquiring college training, tend toward those highly specialized fields of study which relate most directly to job opportunities in industry. The majority of women, on the other hand, continue to choose those fields of study which provide more general education and culture, and which, therefore, equip them for family and community life as much as for paid work.

CHART XXV

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER: 1940 and 1950



SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 46. School Attainment of Women and Men 25 Years and Over: 1940 and 1950

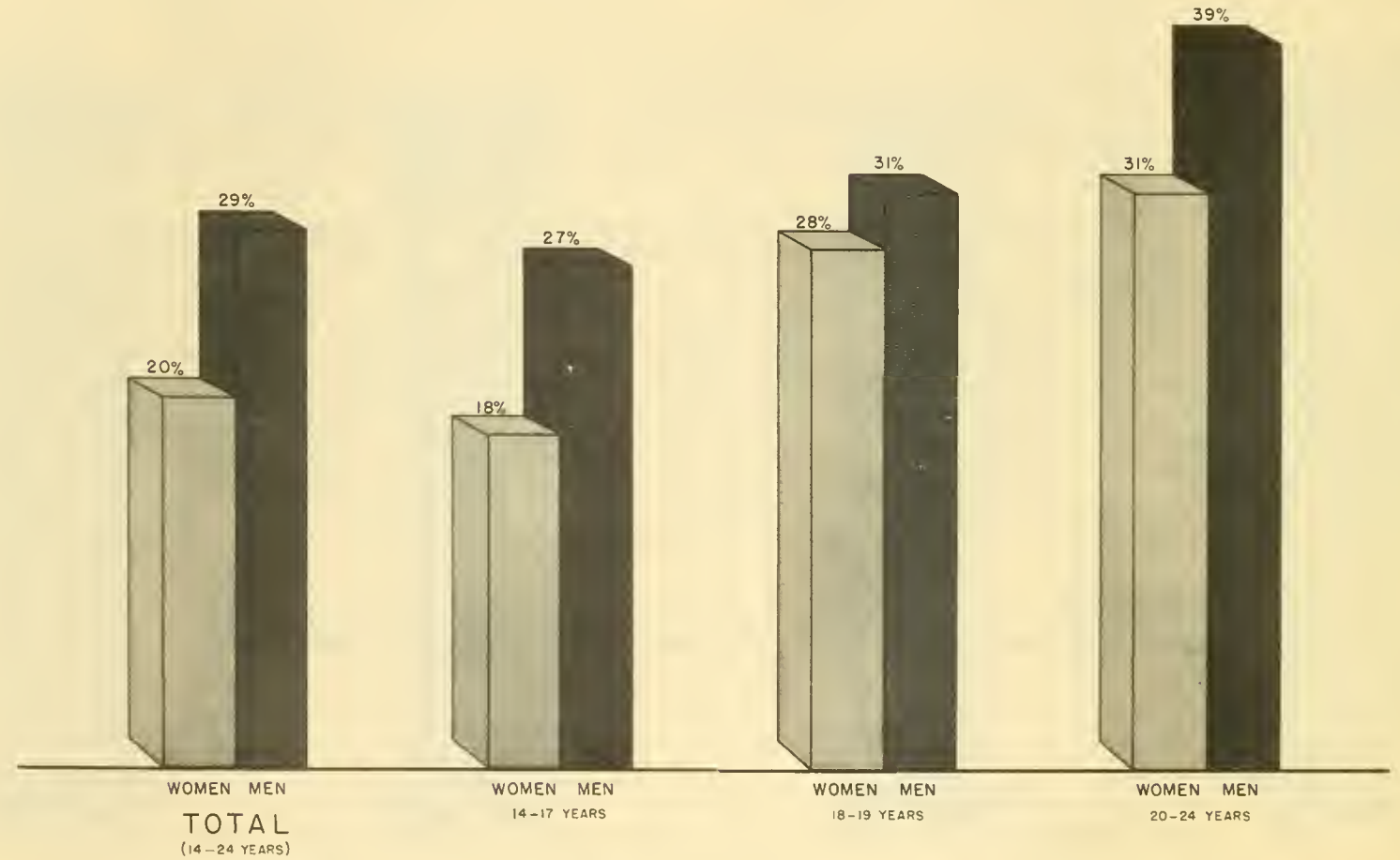
(Numbers in thousands)

Years of school completed	1950				1940				Percent change 1940 to 1950	
	Number		Percent distribution		Number		Percent distribution			
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Total, 25 years and over	44,886	42,685	100.0	100.0	37,313	37,463	100.0	100.0	+20.3	+13.9
None	1,074	1,110	2.4	2.6	1,329	1,471	3.6	3.9	-19.2	-24.5
Less than 8 years	10,262	10,970	22.9	25.7	9,874	11,087	26.5	29.6	+3.9	-1.1
8 years	8,903	8,828	19.8	20.7	10,125	10,631	27.1	28.4	-12.1	-17.0
1 to 3 years of high school	7,851	7,005	17.5	16.4	5,849	5,333	15.7	14.2	+34.2	+31.4
4 years of high school	10,162	7,529	22.6	17.6	6,044	4,507	16.2	12.0	+68.1	+67.0
1 to 2 years of college	3,359	2,903	7.5	6.8	2,251	1,824	6.0	4.9	+49.2	+59.2
4 or more years of college	2,257	3,027	5.0	7.1	1,386	2,021	3.7	5.4	+62.9	+49.8
Not reported	1,018	1,312	2.3	3.1	454	588	1.2	1.6	+124.3	+123.0

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of Population.

CHART XXVI

PROPORTION OF SCHOOL ENROLLEES WHO WERE EMPLOYED: 1951
(PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS)



SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Table 47. School Enrollees 14 to 24 Years of Age, and Their Employment: 1940, 1946-1951 1/

Age	Number (in thousands) 1951		Women							Men						
	Women	Men	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1940	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1940
			Percent of population enrolled in school													
Total - - - -	4,286	4,750	36	35	33	33	32	32	36	47	44	43	43	42	43	39
14 to 17 years - -	3,602	3,614	85	82	81	82	80	80	80	85	84	83	82	79	79	79
18 and 19 years -	440	534	21	24	20	20	19	18	27	32	36	32	34	31	29	31
20 to 24 years - -	244	602	4	5	4	3	4	3	5	14	14	15	17	17	18	8
			Percent school enrollees employed													
Total - - - -	838	1,370	20	19	16	14	13	12	5	29	31	23	24	22	21	9
14 to 17 years - -	638	968	18	17	14	14	11	11	2	27	29	21	24	22	21	6
18 and 19 years -	124	166	28	27	24	14	20	14	12	31	34	26	27	24	23	17
20 to 24 years - -	76	236	31	32	31	22	19	21	23	39	36	28	25	24	18	17

1/ Statistics are for October of each year except 1940 (April).

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports.

Table 48. College Degrees Earned by Women: 1890-1952

School year ending	Total		Bachelor's		Master's		Doctor's	
	Number of women	Percent of all graduates	Number of women	Percent of all graduates	Number of women	Percent of all graduates	Number of women	Percent of all graduates
1952 - - - -	125,543	31.1	104,895	31.6	19,934	31.4	714	9.3
1951 - - - -	124,584	27.3	105,009	27.3	18,901	29.0	674	9.2
1950 - - - -	121,540	24.4	103,915	24.0	16,982	29.2	643	9.7
1949 - - - -	118,537	28.0	102,466	27.9	15,549	30.6	522	9.9
1948 - - - -	110,168	34.6	96,157	35.3	13,510	31.9	501	12.0
1946 - - - -	87,621	55.7	77,510	56.9	9,725	50.6	386	19.6
1944 - - - -	78,126	55.2	69,998	55.6	7,703	57.4	425	18.4
1942 - - - -	92,387	43.3	81,457	43.9	10,469	42.5	461	13.2
1940 - - - -	87,606	40.5	76,954	41.3	10,223	38.2	429	13.0
1938 - - - -	75,923	40.1	67,265	40.8	8,228	38.0	430	14.7
1936 - - - -	64,257	39.1	57,058	39.9	6,799	37.1	400	14.4
1934 - - - -	60,966	38.8	53,815	39.5	6,777	37.0	374	13.2
1932 - - - -	62,356	39.0	54,792	39.7	7,157	37.0	407	15.3
1930 - - - -	55,266	39.5	48,869	39.9	6,044	40.4	353	15.4
1920 - - - -	18,018	33.7	16,642	34.2	1,283	31.0	93	13.5
1910 - - - -	9,170	22.2	8,437	22.7	680	18.0	53	12.4
1900 - - - -	5,561	18.9	5,237	19.1	303	19.1	21	5.7
1890 - - - -	2,882	17.3	2,682	17.3	193	19.1	7	5.6

Source: U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education.

Table 49. College Degrees Earned by Women, by Field of Study: 1951-52

Field of study	Number of women	Percent of all graduates
Total women	125,543	31.1
Agriculture 1/	165	1.8
Anatomy	13	6.4
Animal husbandry	18	1.5
Anthropology	150	40.5
Architecture	122	5.0
Astronomy	12	20.3
Bacteriology	296	30.2
Biochemistry	53	12.5
Biology	1,949	25.4
Biological sciences 1/	260	25.9
Botany	153	21.8
Business and Commerce	5,934	11.7
Chemistry	1,314	14.2
Dentistry	125	3.6
Economics	1,174	12.3
Education	46,935	60.4
Engineering	81	.2
English	9,208	56.5
Entomology	8	3.6
Fine arts 1/	3,343	56.9
Forestry	1	.1
Geography	153	17.0
Geology	93	3.4
History	3,327	27.8
Home economics	8,286	98.8
Industrial arts	81	2.5
International relations	136	18.2
Journalism	867	28.0
Language, classical	260	31.3
Language, modern	2,899	61.2
Law	416	3.2
Library science	1,273	74.0
Mathematics	1,482	25.9
Medicine	1,234	12.9
Metallurgy	1	.2
Meteorology	3	1.7
Military or naval science	2	1.0
Music	4,556	51.7
Natural science	-	-
Nursing	4,565	98.9
Occupational therapy	-	-
Optometry	24	2.6
Osteopathy	12	2.6
Pharmacy	408	9.0
Philosophy	336	12.0
Physical education	2,716	28.4
Physics	150	4.1
Physical sciences 1/	40	5.8
Physiology	106	33.7
Political science	997	17.8
Psychology	3,252	38.0
Public administration	67	10.8
Public health	318	32.1
Religion and theology	1,533	17.8
Social sciences 1/	2,210	35.1
Social work	1,814	60.0
Sociology	3,862	52.5
Speech and dramatic arts	2,367	48.8
Textiles	-	-
Veterinary medicine	10	1.0
Zoology	566	20.5
Arts (without major)	2,512	27.9
Sciences (without major)	778	16.5
All other fields of study	517	23.4

1/ Not elsewhere classified.

Source: U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Data compiled by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, which have been used in this report, relate to persons 14 years and over in the population and the labor force, unless otherwise indicated in the table.

Where long-term trends are shown (tables 1, 19, and 20), figures for each year are from the decennial census of the United States. These data were obtained by a complete enumeration of the population, both civilian and military, once every 10 years. In all other tables showing census data, figures for each year are based on the monthly sample of the Bureau of the Census. These estimates are obtained by personal interview with individual members of a sample of households, and are designed to provide current information on the work status of the population, classified into broad social and economic groups. The estimates exclude inmates of institutions and members of the Armed Forces.

The number of persons in the labor force as enumerated in the 1950 decennial census is generally considered to be an under-enumerated figure, particularly with regard to teen-agers and women 25 years and over. In April 1950, the estimate of civilian persons, both men and women, in the labor force based on the monthly sample differed from the number of civilians enumerated in the 1950 census by some 3 million; i.e., the decennial census figure was about 5 percent below that obtained from the sample. Greatest differences were found in the numbers of women and of young persons reported as in the labor force. For example, the sample survey estimated 18 million women in the labor force, whereas the decennial census enumerated only $16\frac{1}{2}$ million women. Preliminary results of the analysis of these differences indicate that enumerators employed in obtaining the estimate for the sample survey reported more completely on the employment of all groups in the population. The estimated figure, therefore, is considered more accurate than that obtained from the total enumeration. Where long-term trends are involved, however, 1950 decennial census figures have been used in this report because they are considered more comparable with figures from earlier decennial censuses than are the more accurate figures obtained from the monthly sample of the labor force.

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